

Registration & Beneficiary Management Practices

Exploring registration & beneficiary management practices in South Sudan

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IOM

19 November, 2025

Abstract This research examined current registration and beneficiary management practices in South Sudan, to better understand registration data collection and management practices, the commonality of data fields, and the current extent of data sharing agreements among organizations. It was conducted by the International Organization for Migration and supported with funding from ECHO and the collaboration from humanitarian organizations in South Sudan through a series of interviews, a survey and direct observation. The study found a large variance in all aspects of registration and beneficiary management, the practices around registration data collection, the data fields collected and systems capabilities that support the processes. The implications of this variance pose significant challenges to targeted, coordinated multi-sectoral action, but by highlighting the key barriers and framing them through a lens of interoperability this study can support the collective effort in improving targeting, deduplication and referral practices in South Sudan.

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Note that this research is a working draft.

1 Introduction

This goal of this analysis is to understand registration and beneficiary analysis in South Sudan, specifically:¹

- what data do organizations collect during registrations and to what degree of commonality exist among the data points collected?
- what are the practices, processes and tools that organizations use and to how are they similar or differ?
- what organizations have Data Sharing Agreements with each other and what does it look like as a network?

Information from this analysis² came from a survey to South Sudan organizations, individual and group interviews and observations, in Juba and Malakal in June and September 2025.

1.1 Acknowledgements

This analysis was co-funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Office (ECHO).



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

2 Survey Analysis

The survey was conducted between 27th June and 14th October 2025 and contains responses from 16 organization.³

¹This analysis builds upon previous work done by the Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) and DIGID

²To identify patterns, this analysis makes use of Upsetplots. The selected dots represent selected values, the bars on the left represent the count of each value and the bars on top represent the count of intersecting/matching sets of values.

³Organizations who did not participate in the initial survey or share their registration forms are welcome to add their responses here if interested. The survey analysis will be updated on request, to reflect additional responses.

2.1 Profile of respondents

Responses were received from international NGO's nation NGO's and UN entities.



Figure 1: Survey respondent organizations by type

The respondents represent organizations responding across 11 sectors, with Food Security and Cash Based Interventions most prominently. 11 of the 16 respondents work in CBI.

There was significant diversity in the organization as only two worked in the same combination of sectors.

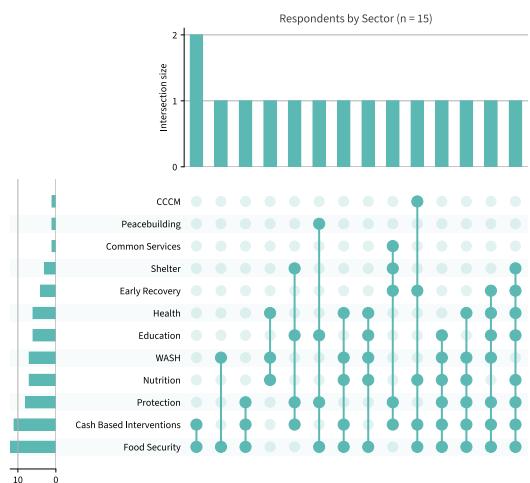


Figure 2: Respondent organizations by sector, with CBI and Food Security most common

All bar one organization work with both host communities and IDPs.

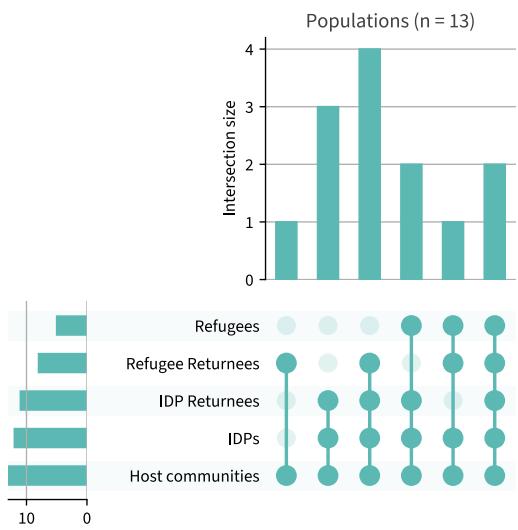


Figure 3: Target populations served by respondent organizations

2.2 Registration

Only two respondents do not conduct registration activities.

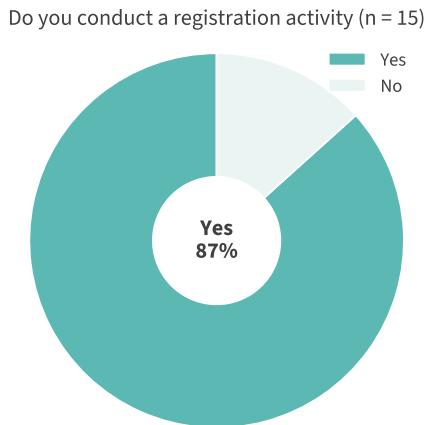


Figure 4: Proportion of respondents conducting registration activities)

Accountability as per the organizations procedures was the most cited purpose for registration. The purposes were also significantly varied - only 5 respondents shared the same set of purposes.

2.2.1 Purpose and basis

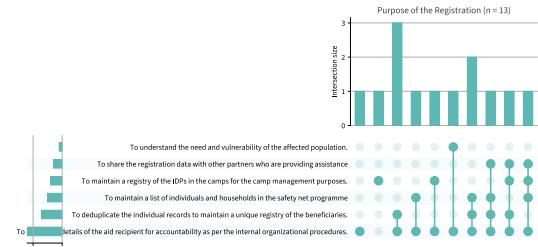


Figure 5: Primary purposes for registration, with accountability most cited

Of the organizations that conduct registration, 29% (4) their registration efforts as inter-agency.

Is it inter-agency (n = 13)

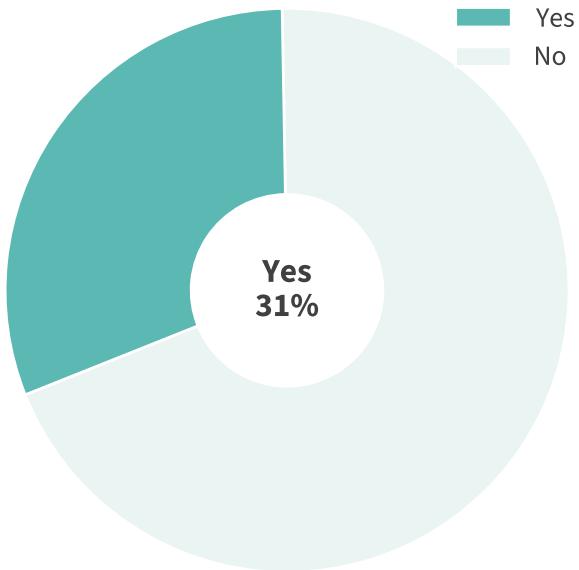


Figure 6: Inter-agency registration activities

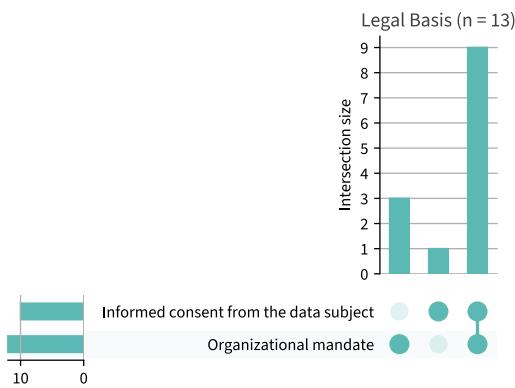


Figure 7: Legal basis cited by organizations for registration activities, with organizational procedures most frequently referenced

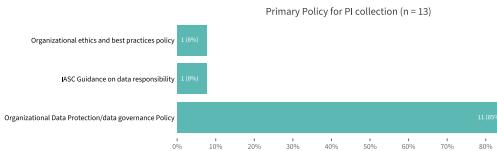


Figure 8: Primary policy frameworks cited by respondent organizations for personal information collection

2.2.2 Deduplication

The methods used to deduplicate⁴ show extreme variance across all respondents, with only two responding organizations using the same set of deduplication methods.

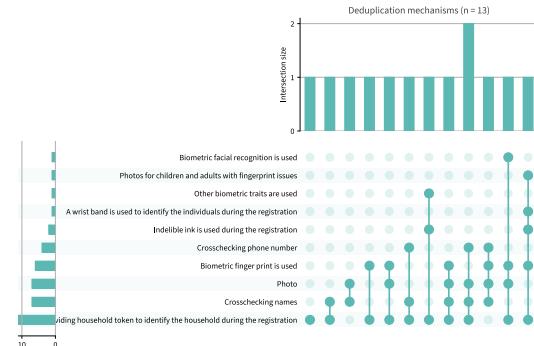


Figure 9: Deduplication mechanisms used by respondent organizations for registration and beneficiary data management

For deduplication across organizations over a third of respondents referred to performing deduplication against WFP's SCOPE system.

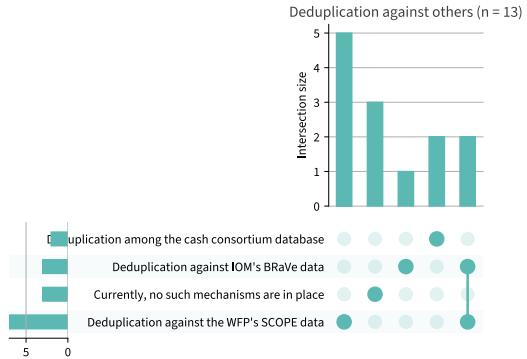


Figure 10: Deduplication methods used by respondent organizations when comparing beneficiary data against other organizations

2.2.3 Methods

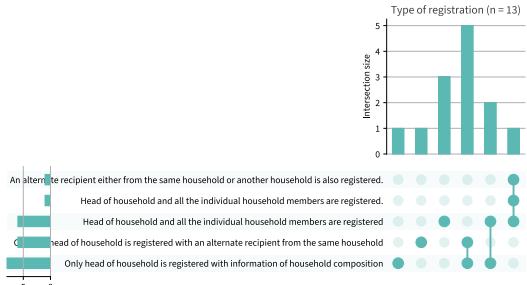


Figure 11: Registration types used by respondent organizations, with multi-purpose registration systems most common



Figure 12: Means of confirmation used by respondent organizations to verify beneficiary identity during registration

⁴Deduplication refers to its two main forms - deduplication of records of individuals or households in or across systems, and deduplication in reference to planned or received assistance.

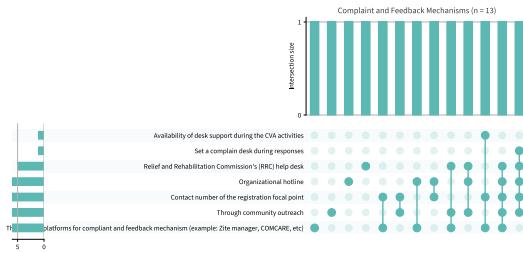


Figure 13: Complaint and feedback mechanisms used by respondent organizations for beneficiary engagement and accountability

2.2.4 Authentication

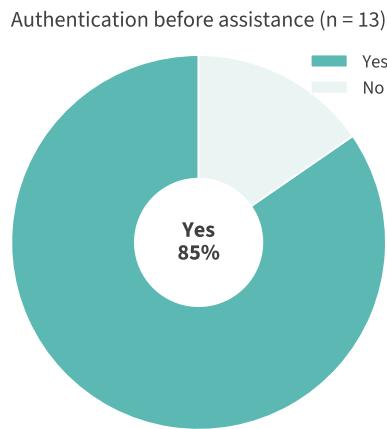


Figure 14: Authentication before assistance

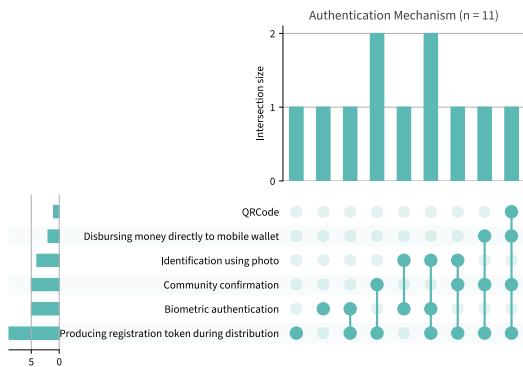


Figure 15: The authentication mechanisms used by organizations before providing assistance to beneficiaries

2.2.5 Data sharing

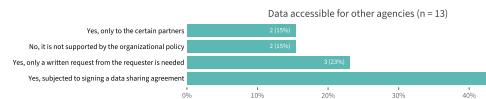


Figure 16: Data accessibility for other agencies among respondent organizations

Do you share the registration data with partners (n = 13)

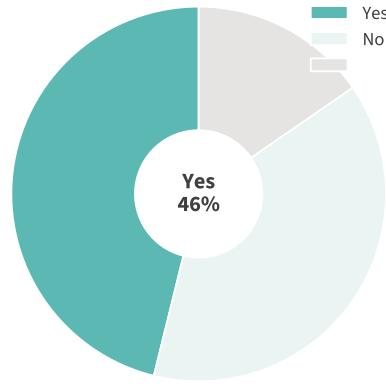


Figure 17: Proportion of organizations sharing registration data with partner organizations

2.3 Non registrations actors

Formalized Data Sharing Agreement (n = 13)

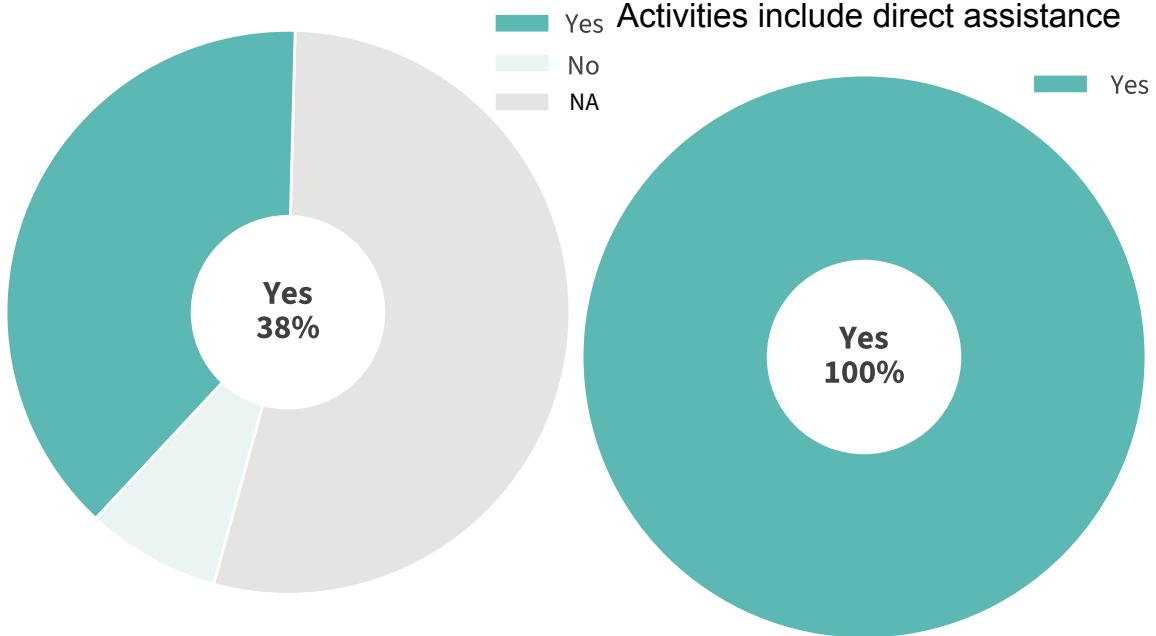


Figure 18: Proportion of organizations with formalized data sharing agreements among surveyed respondents

Figure 19: Organizations providing direct assistance at household or individual level



Figure 20: Beneficiary list sources for non-registering organizations

2.4 Systems information

Data managed in a database system

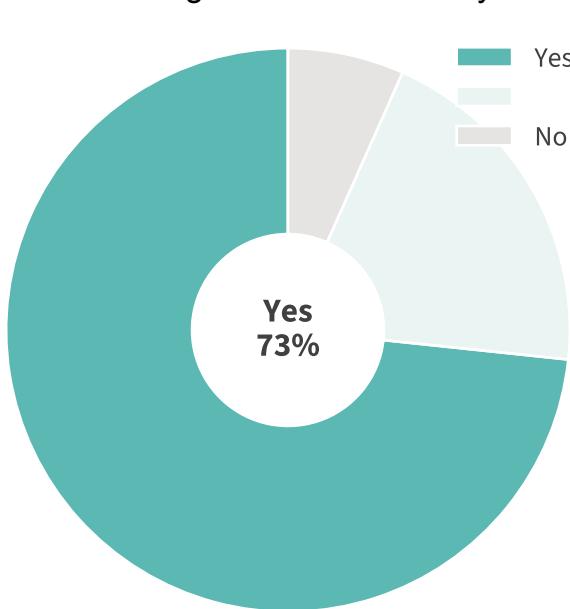


Figure 21: Use of database systems for registration and beneficiary data management

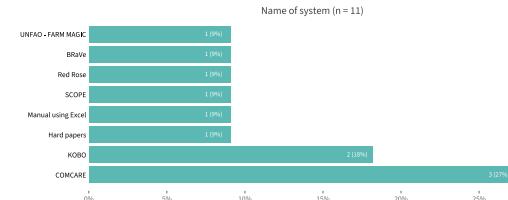


Figure 22: Database management systems used by respondent organizations

Interoperable with other systems

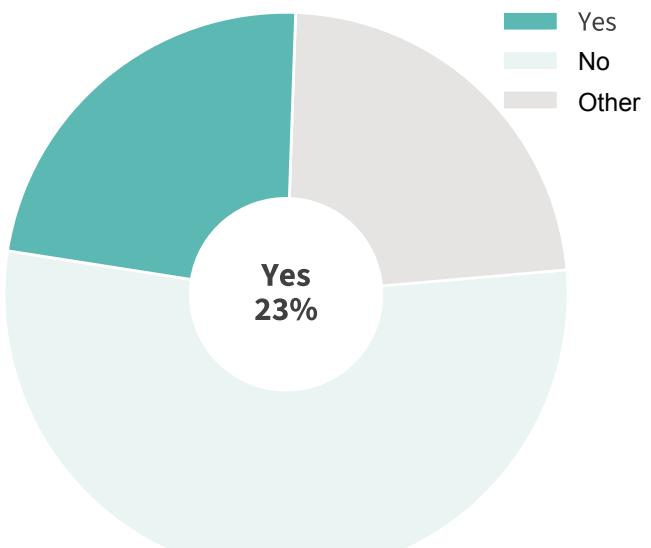


Figure 23: Interoperability of the system

3 Data Sharing Graph

Examining the surveyed organization, we can visualize which organizations have data sharing agreements with each other.

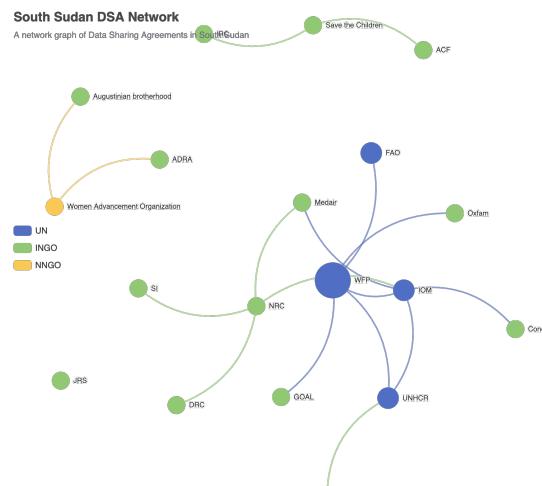


Figure 24: Data sharing agreement network showing fragmentation among surveyed organizations

Even among the small number of organizations surveyed we can see significant fragmen-

tation and loosely connected data sharing networks.

4 Comparing Data Points

The following plot visualizes each data point collected by each organization. The histogram on the left show the count of datapoints among organizations - for instance, a 5 beside "Full name" means that 5 organizations gather that same data point. The top histogram show the number of organizations that collect the exact same data.

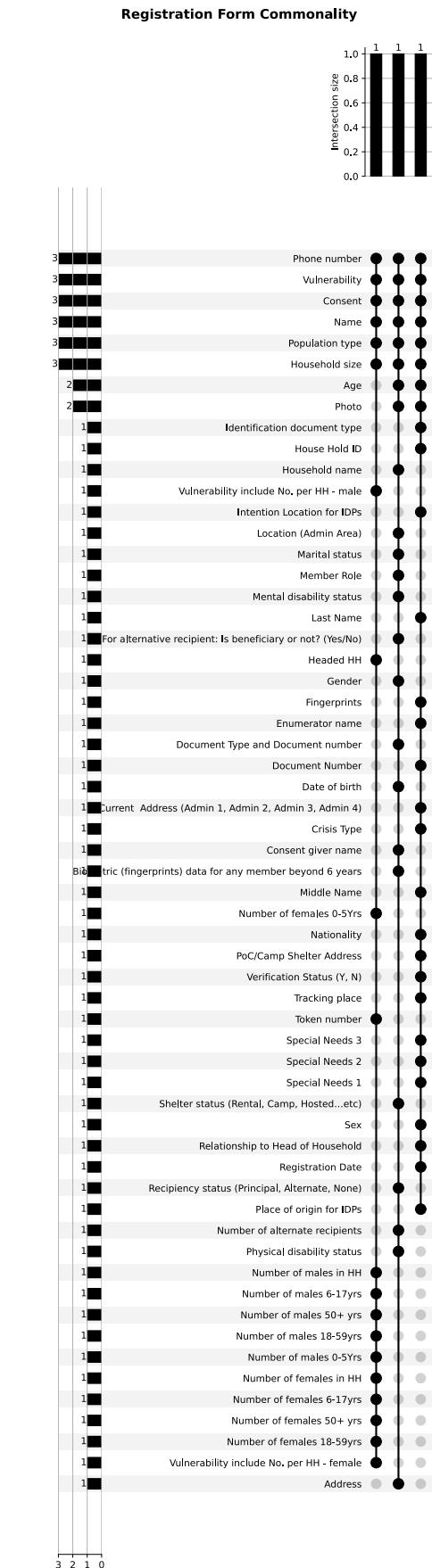


Figure 25: Registration data field overlaps across organizations. Left: frequency of each field; top: organizations with identical field sets. Note: Some fields were normalized for variations in wording

5 Conclusion

Overall, registration and beneficiary management practices are significantly varied. Along with limited data-sharing agreements and a low degree of commonality of data fields across registrations forms, these factors limit the interoperability and use of beneficiary data across organizations and sectors in South Sudan.

Interoperability of data and systems is a key requirement for cross-organizational and cross-sectoral efforts for targeting, deduplication and referral.

While signs of progress are evident from previous in-country efforts , these impacts have mostly been limited to within small consortia of actors or UN agencies. To better address the challenge its should be viewed as an entire response-level challenge that requires as response-level approach to address.

6 References

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