



43,530

South Sudanese refugee returnees have been reported in February 2022.

An Accumulated number of **550,626** refugee returnees have been reported since the signing of the revitalized peace agreement in October 2018.

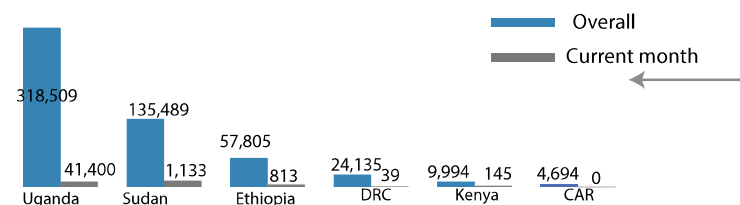
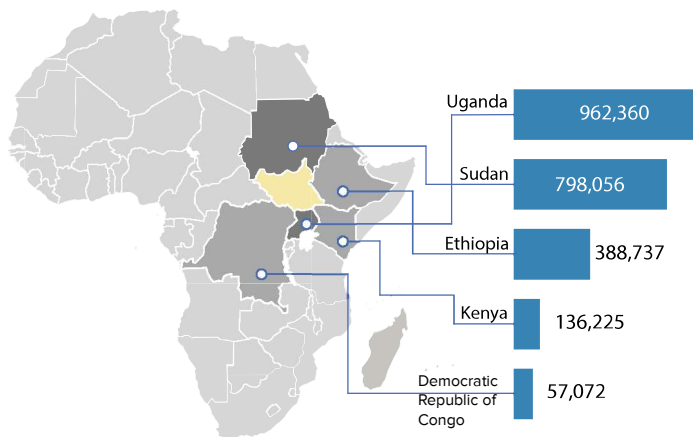
UNHCR and South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) are pleased to share this monthly update on spontaneous South Sudanese refugee returnees.

The dashboard highlights cross-border refugee movements between Neighboring countries and South Sudan during the month February
Spontaneous refugee returnees by Country of Asylum

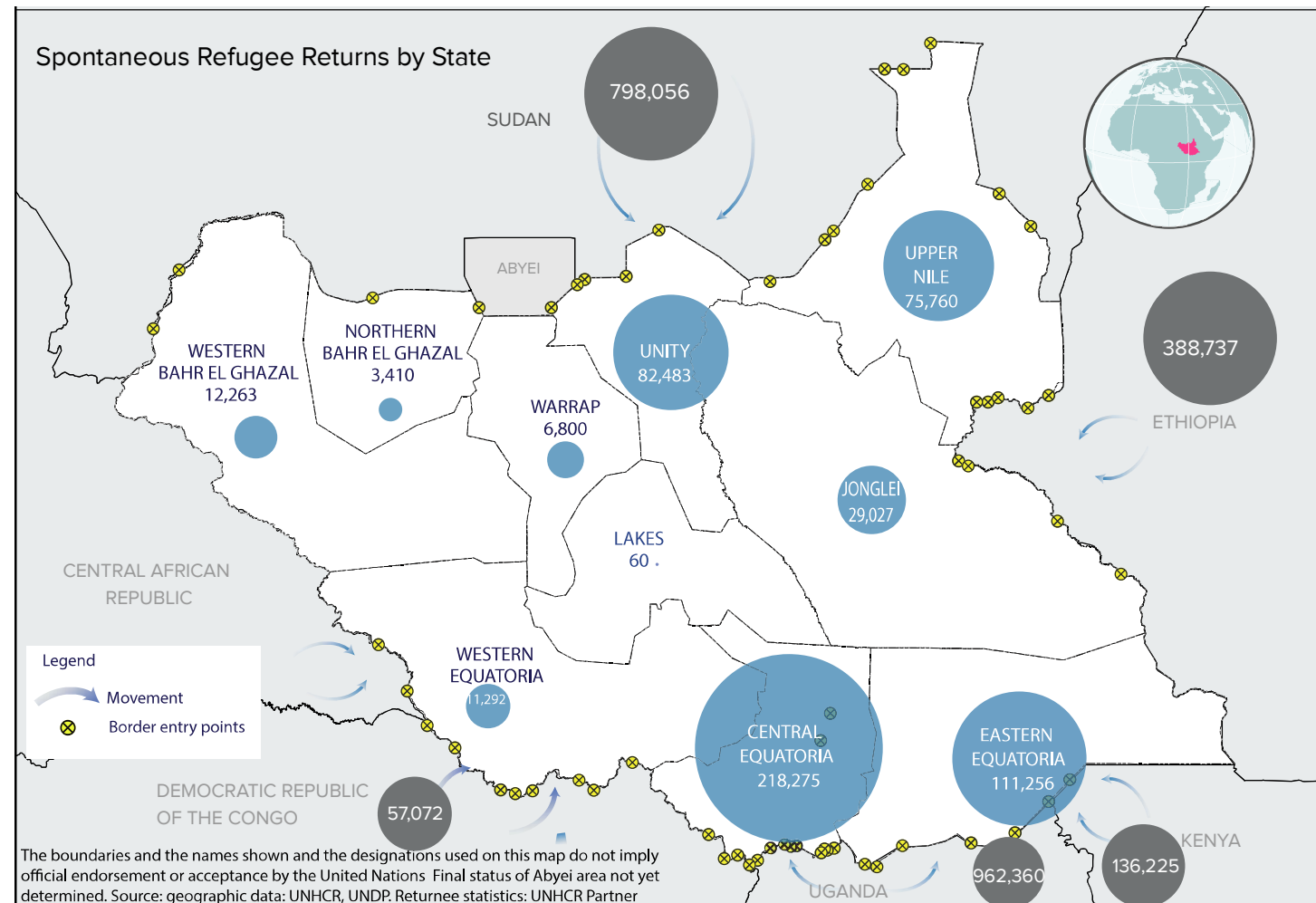
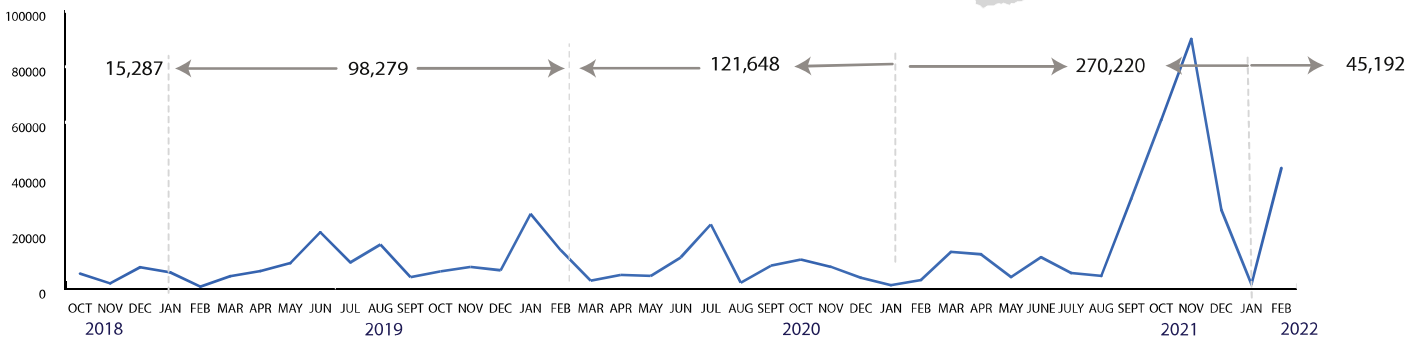


2.3 Million refugees

South Sudanese Refugees in the region as of 31 January 2022



Returns from Oct 2018 - Mar 2022



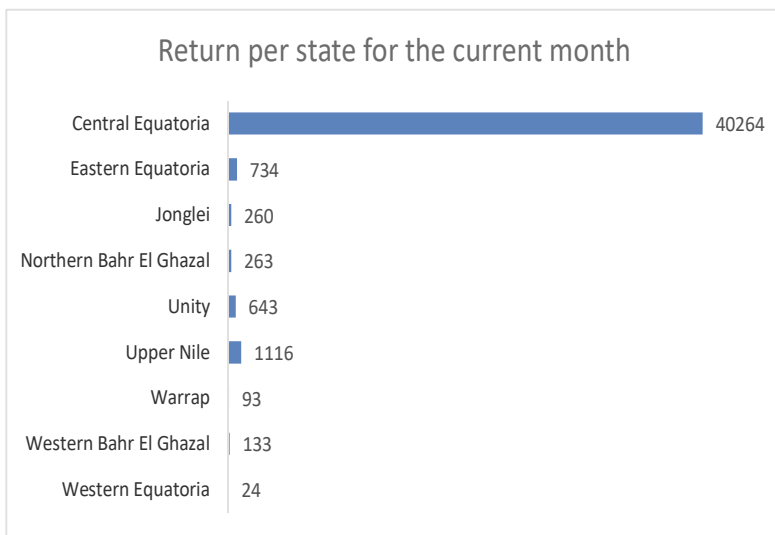
The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final status of Abyei area not yet determined. Source: geographic data: UNHCR, UNDP. Returnee statistics: UNHCR Partner

Key highlights on refugee returns and cross border movements

Return of 43,530 South Sudanese refugees have been verified and reported in the month of February 2022. This is a sharp decline as compared to the returns in the month of February 2022. The decline was attributed to the re-opening of schools and the resumption of the economy of the neighboring countries especially Uganda because of the lifting of the COVID-19 lock down. Attacks by the Misseriya tribe from Sudan in Gokmachar-Abyei corridor led to the closure of the border with Sudan thus halting refugee returns from Sudan to South Sudan. It to be noted that in 2021 most refugees were returning with children to join schools and in search of better livelihoods, income generating and economical activities in South Sudan. It is to be noted that these two pull factors were responsible for most returns to South Sudan in 2022.

Information on returnees was collected in 97 Focus Group Discussions and 163 key informant interviews conducted during February in areas of return in the following states: Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Western Equatoria, Central and Eastern Equatoria State. Most of the verified returnees to the Nine States were mostly from Uganda (95%), and less than 10 % are from Sudan, Ethiopia, DRC and Kenya. The majority of the returnees from Uganda went to Central Equatoria State those from Sudan went to Unity and Upper Nile State.

Returnee sources in neighboring countries/destination in SSD



Most of the returns for the February 2022 is from Uganda through central equatoria state of Yei and Kajo-keji county.

Reason for leaving country of asylum

- Lack of access to basic services (62%).
- Lack of employment and livelihood opportunities (47%).
- Insecurity from the country of asylum (12%).

Key protection concerns at border points and in areas of return (as reported by returned refugees) are:

- Clashes between SSPDF and SPLA-IO in area of Upper Nile resulting to death of 12 people in Mathiang Village.
- Attacks by youth from Ruweng and Guit county of unity state leading to death of 17 individuals and causing displacement to refugee returnees..
- Ethnic and intercommunal violence especially in Jongolei has led to unspecified loss of lives and internal displacement of population.
- Fighting among Cattle herder and farmers in Magwi county of Eastern Equatoria State which lead to death of several people and burning of houses.

Methodology

The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) in coordination with UNHCR and partners monitor cross-border movements at 37 border entry points and in areas of high return. Information is collected through interviews with the returnees at border point and community based/-house-hold-level assessments regularly in areas of high return. This information is then triangulated with data collected from focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and meetings with local authorities and faith-based leaders, law enforcement agents, and immigration officers in the border entry points and areas of returns.

Contributing partners



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Reason for returning to South Sudan

The most cited reasons for returning to South Sudan from Country of Asylum included:-

- Improvement of security situation in South Sudan (42%).
- Reuniting with family members (28%).
- Improved availability of services in South Sudan (13%).