

## Wunthou-Joda Border Rapid Intention Survey

31 December 2024

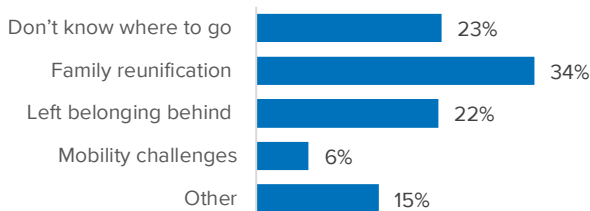
Since the end of November, the fighting in Blue Nile, White Nile and Sennar States of Sudan has escalated, leading to a surge of returnees and refugees to Renk County of Upper Nile State in South Sudan. 82,516 returnees and refugees have been counted across the communities hosting new arrivals. New arrivals who have settled along the main road between Renk town and the Joda border make up 38 per cent (30,264 individuals). Some 6,000 are hosted around the Joda Reception Centre. A rapid intention survey was conducted on 27-28 December 2024, targeting **808 households** who settled around **Joda Reception Centre**.

### Key findings

#### 58% refugees and returnees intend to stay at the border

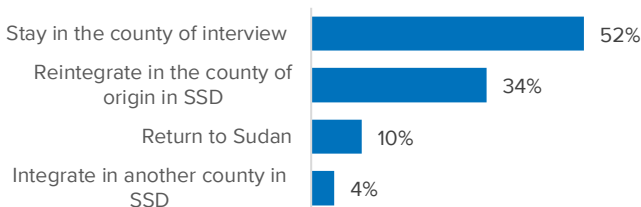
Returnees are less likely to stay at the border and its surrounding areas, with only 55% expressing this intention, compared to 83% of refugees. There is no substantial difference based on gender or age of the respondents.

#### Reasons to stay at the border



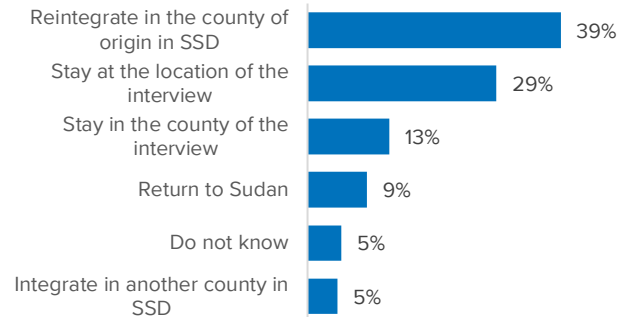
Under the "Other" option, key reasons for staying at the border include **awaiting food distribution in camps in Sudan (8%), safety and housing concerns in South Sudan (2%), plans to go back to Sudan (2%),** and other personal factors (3%).

#### Short term intentions



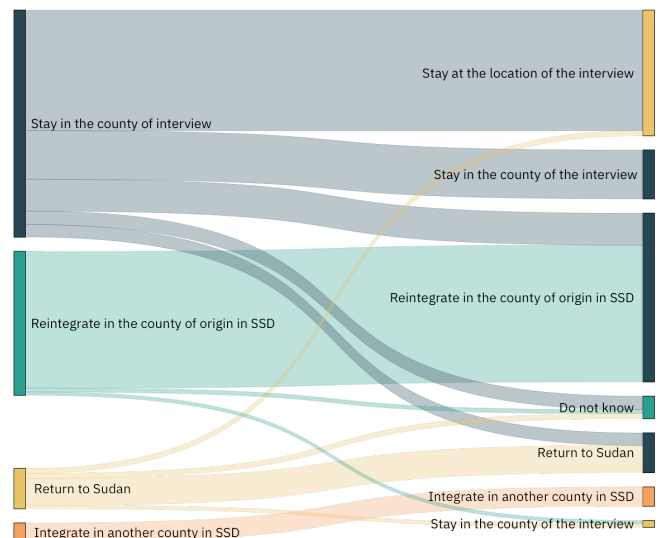
Both returnees and refugees prefer to stay in the county of interview, making it the most common intention for both groups. Refugees are more inclined to return to Sudan (35%) compared to returnees (6%) in the short-term.

#### Mid-term intentions



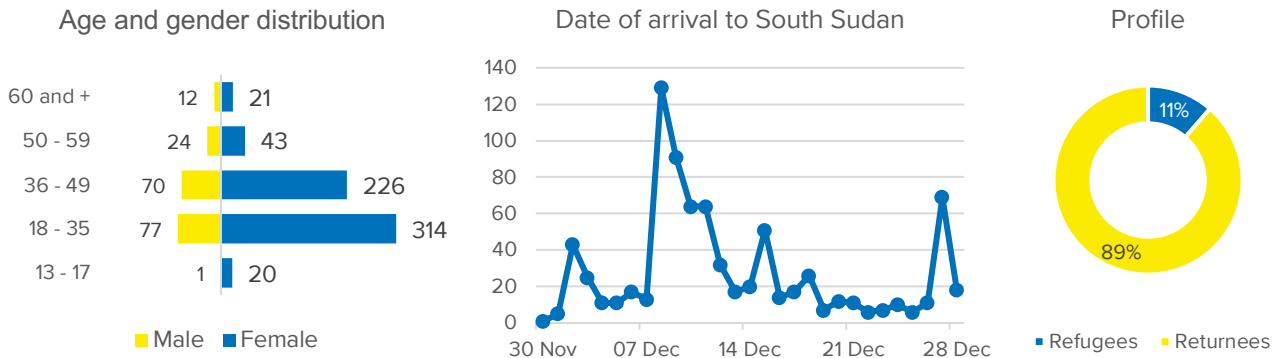
Refugees (32%) are significantly more likely to return to Sudan than returnees (6%), while returnees (30%) show a stronger preference for staying at the interview location compared to refugees (23%).

#### Change from short-term to mid-term intentions

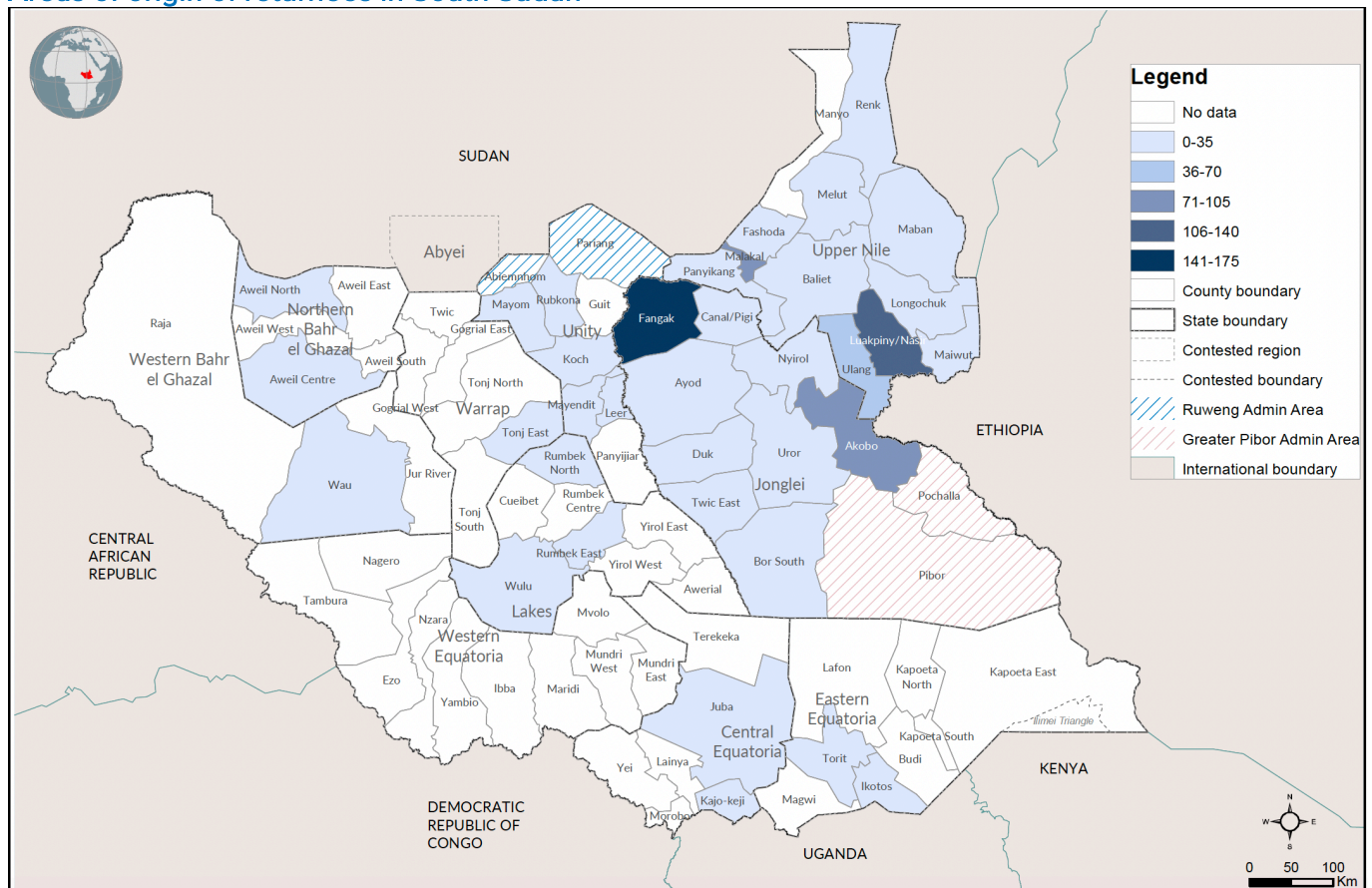


Reintegration in the county of origin is the most dominant and stable intention, while the intention to return to Sudan declines as individuals opt for more stable local options.

## Demographics



## Areas of origin of returnees in South Sudan

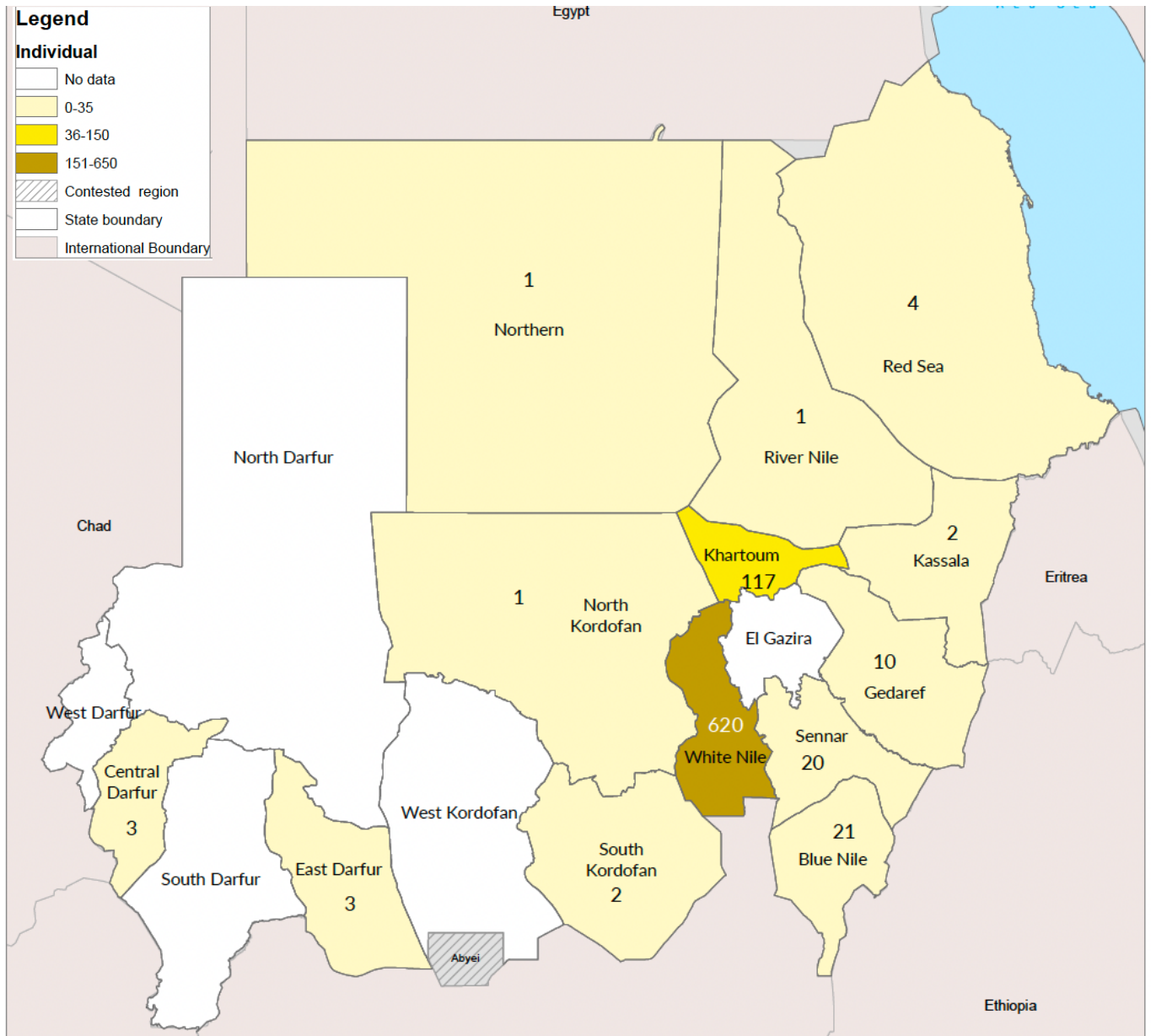


Over 60% of surveyed returnees originate from five counties: Fangak (17%) in Jonglei, Luakpiny/Nasir (14%) and Malakal (14%) in Upper Nile, Akobo (10%) in Jonglei, and Ulang (6%) in Upper Nile. According to the inter-sectoral needs analysis done for the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, these five counties are classified as severity of need 4, the most severe in South Sudan<sup>1</sup>. The top two countries of origin - Fangak and Akobo - were the most affected by the floods in 2024<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1223/document/humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-south-sudan-2025/article/part-1-humanitarian-needs#page-title>

<sup>2</sup> <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/south-sudan-flood-data>

## Areas of departure from Sudan



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The exercise was conducted with a joint effort of ACROSS, ACTED, IOM, IRC, JRS, LWF, UNHCR

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