

South Sudan

March 2025

South Sudan hosts over **500,000** refugees and asylum seekers with Sudan as the primary country of origin accounting for **94%** of refugees, followed by DRC (**3%**), and Ethiopia (**1%**). Most refugees, (**65%**) reside in rural areas and **32%** across **12** camps/ settlements, while **3%** live in urban areas.

Since the onset of the **Sudan crisis**, over **one million** people have arrived in South Sudan seeking safety. Of these, (**70%**) are South Sudanese nationals returning home, whilst the rest includes over **200,000** Sudanese refugees as well as smaller numbers of other foreign nationals.

Beyond the Sudan response, UNHCR also assists some **1.8 million** people forcibly displaced by civil war, sub-national conflict and the cumulative impact of consecutive flooding and climate-related shocks.

Population Figures

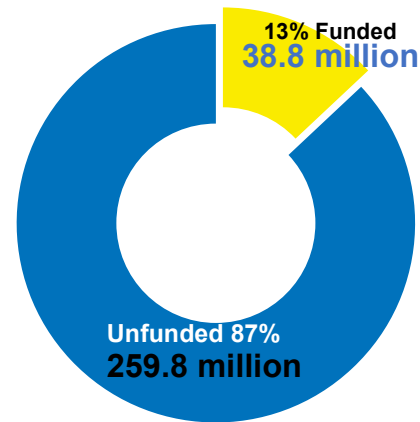
Refugees & Asylum Seekers	530,775
IDPs	1.8 million
Returnees	1.6 million

Country of Origin

Sudan	500,521
DRC	14,151
Ethiopia	7,143
Eritrea	3,985
Others	4,975

USD 298.7 million

requested for South Sudan as of 28 February 2025



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

349 National Staff
95 International Staff

Offices:

- 01** Country Office in Juba
- 02** Sub Office in Maban and Jamjang
- 06** Field Offices in Aweil, Bentiu, Bor, Malakal, Renk and Yei
- 05** Field Units in Abyei, Juba, Torit, Wau and Yambio



Fairoz and her extended family in Renk Transit Centre, Upper Nile State © UNHCR/October 2023

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works closely with the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) on the refugee response, Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) in returnee and IDP settings, and the Directorate of Civil Registry, Nationality, Passports, and Immigration (DCRNPI) to address statelessness.
- UNHCR and UNMISS have been cooperating based on a "Principles of Partnership" since 2021 to jointly advance peace and the pursuit of durable solutions.
- UNHCR actively engages with the UN Humanitarian Country Team and leads the protection and CCCM clusters. UNHCR also works with over 21 NGOs (16 international and 5 national NGOs) to provide protection and assistance.
- Moreover, UNHCR's localization agenda emphasizes empowering local actors by partnering with five local NGOs and coordinating with local authorities and communities, including refugees, to ensure they play a central role in the humanitarian response.

Key Priorities

In recent years, South Sudan has faced increasing political instability, a worsening economic crisis intensified by ongoing conflict in Sudan and severe flooding, alongside other climate-related shocks. Approximately 69% of South Sudan's 13.4 million population will require some form of humanitarian assistance in 2025. These needs have intensified against a backdrop of shrinking resources and a fatigued funding environment. As a result, UNHCR has had to change its working modalities and reprioritise, focusing on delivering critical life-saving assistance to those most in need, while also advancing sustainable solutions and area-based approaches.

Level 3 Emergency: Responding with lifesaving support.

- In response to the Sudan emergency, UNHCR rapidly scaled up to meet urgent protection and humanitarian needs at border, transit, and refugee-hosting sites.
- UNHCR, together with the Government of South Sudan and IOM, are present at 27 border points monitoring arrivals; and has established 12 transit/reception centres across the country where new arrivals can access basic health, protection, food, and shelter assistance before receiving onward transportation to their areas of origin for returnees or to refugee receiving camps and settlements. Once settled, refugees receive access to already established health, education, protection, shelter and water and sanitation (WASH) assistance.

Protection: Upholding fundamental human rights

- UNHCR works closely with the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) to build national asylum capacity, [advocate with authorities](#) to uphold the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers and support national inclusion of those displaced in national services such as education, healthcare, and birth registration.
- UNHCR also works with displaced and local communities to carry out regular [protection monitoring](#) in locations with internal displacement and refugee return, while also leading coordination with humanitarian actors under the Protection and CCCM cluster.

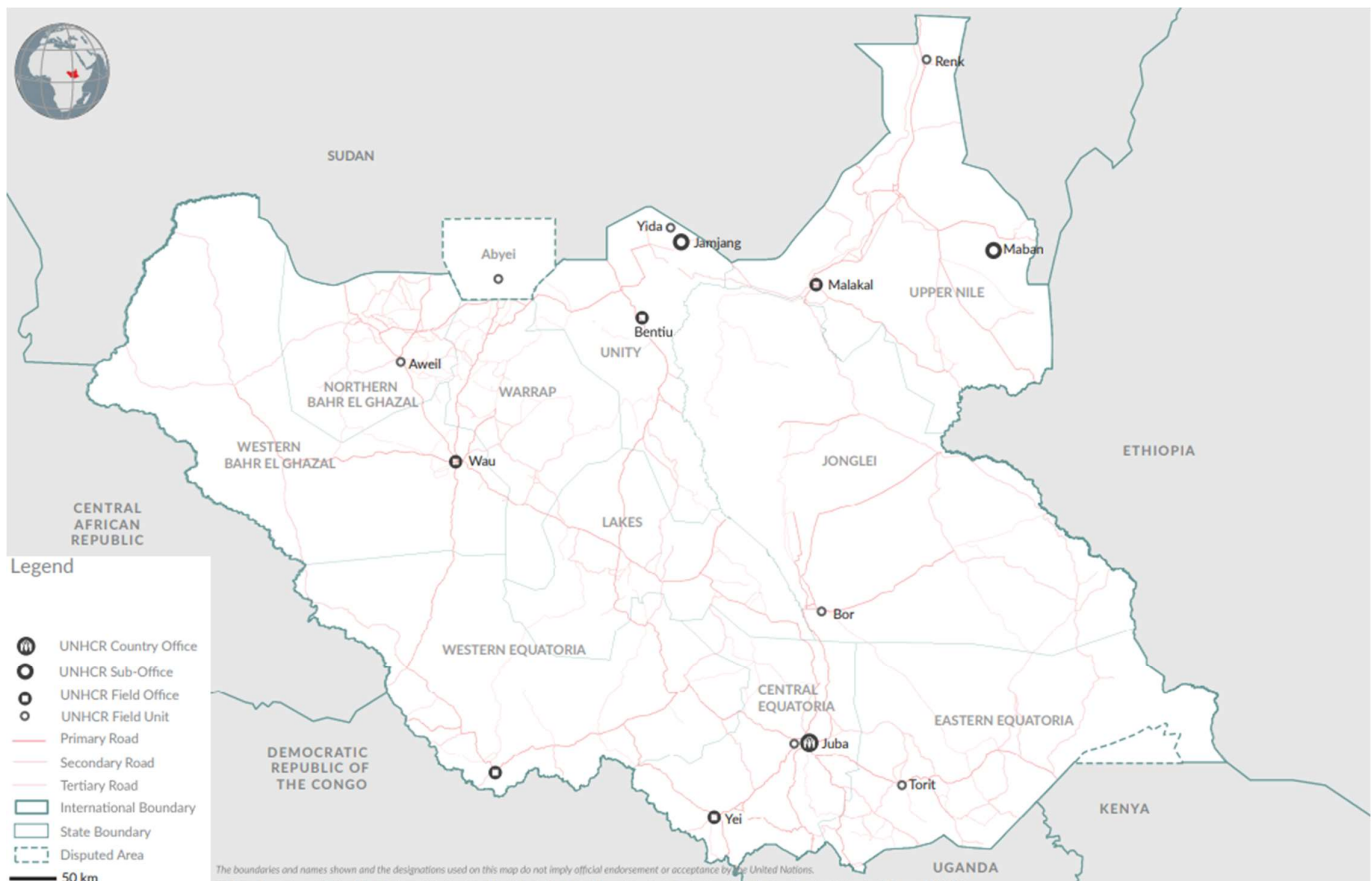
Solutions: Building hope for a better future

- UNHCR provides technical support and advocacy for endorsement of the [South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy](#) to lay the legal foundation for solutions to forced displacement, while operationalizing solutions.
- Joint efforts ongoing with UNMISS and UN agencies to support the implementation of the [2018 Peace Agreement \(R-ARCSS\)](#) including restoring transitional justice mechanism and facilitating the IDP and refugee returnees' participation in the permanent constitution making process and election consultations.
- Supporting the Government of South Sudan in implementing the [Global Refugee Forum pledges](#) in Education, livelihoods, Energy and Infrastructure, Solutions, and Statelessness.
- Leverage UNHCR's convening role and building [partnership with developmental actions](#) including World Bank, Africa Development Bank, EU INTPA.
- UNHCR plays a key role in South Sudan's area-based coordination, supporting refugees, IDPs, and returnees through protection, education, and livelihood programs. Leading coordination efforts in Malakal, Upper Nile State, UNHCR works with the government and partners to implement durable solutions, such as land allocation, shelter construction, and basic services. Its approach aligns with the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus, ensuring a transition from emergency aid to sustainable development and resilience-building.

Main Challenges & Unmet Needs

- **Unpredictable Funding Climate:** Recent political shifts, economic downturns, and donor fatigue have led to inconsistent funding for humanitarian efforts in South Sudan. This has forced a reprioritisation of activities and hindered long-term planning.
- **Poor infrastructure,** flooding, heavy rains, sporadic violence, and security incidents, resulting in accessibility issues, security, and logistical challenges.
- **Lack of high-level political push for GRF pledges** and resource commitments to solutions for displacement issues, limited capacity of government to deliver on its responsibilities.
- **Resource constraints** in addressing competing operational priorities amid rising costs and inflation.

Map of UNHCR South Sudan Operational Presence



Special thanks to the generous donors who contributed with earmarked and unearmarked funding to the South Sudan Operation

African Development Fund | Australia | Belgium | Country-based pooled funds | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Intergovernmental Authority on Development | Ireland | Japan | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS | Luxembourg | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | The Mastercard Foundation| ZeShan (H.K.) Foundation

For more information, please contact Senior External Relations Officer Carla Calvo calvoc@unhcr.org