From Oct 2018 to June 2023, 672,490 spontaneous refugee returnees have arrived to South Sudan after signing of the revitalized peace agreement. To learn more about the challenges they face and their plans, UNHCR conducts an in-depth household-level survey of returnees across the country.

UNHCR and partners on quarterly basis collect information on refugee returns through key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and partner monitoring reports. Jointly with Government’s Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, UNHCR validates the reports by interviewing randomly selected returnee households in areas of return during the period.

During the second quarter of 2023, a total of 2,038 households were interviewed from April to June 2023 corresponding to approximately 12,244 people in all the ten states of Upper Nile, Northern Bahr Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes, Jonglei, Warrap, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Unity and Warrap States.

### KEY STATISTICS (April-June 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of households interviewed</th>
<th># of Individuals interviewed</th>
<th>States of returns (individuals)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,038 households</td>
<td>12,244 individuals</td>
<td>4,290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Demographics

**Female-headed households:** 51%

**Child-headed households:** 0.1%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-17</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-59</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top five counties with the highest number of return from April to June 2023:

- Unity: 2,726
- Western Bahr Ghazal: 2,323
- Northern Bahr Ghazal: 1,082
- Central Equatoria: 878
- Western Equatoria: 630
- Upper Nile: 336
- Warrap: 70

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The boundaries and 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 is not yet determined.

Source: Geographic data: UNHCR, UNCS, UNDP.

Refugee Returnee statistics: UNHCR and Partners.

Feedback: ssj@unhcr.org

Author: UNHCR Representation Office in Juba South Sudan.
THE JOURNEY

Reported reasons for return (Households)

Reasons for departures from country of asylum
1. Insecurity in country of asylum (16%)
2. Lack of access to basic services (16%)
3. Lack of employment and livelihood opportunities in country of asylum (14%)

Reasons for returning to South Sudan
1. Improved availability of services in South Sudan (29%)
2. Improvement of security situation in South Sudan (11%)
3. Reunit with family members (10%)

Note: One household reported one or more reasons for their return to country of asylum.

Mode of transport (Households)
- 43% of households returned by collective/private car
- 15% of households returned on foot
- 17% of households returned on boat
- 16% of households returned by bus

8% used other means such as motorbike and airplane.

Vulnerabilities identified (cases)*
- 121 Older people unable to care for themselves
- 120 Child care
- 21 Unaccompanied children
- 34 Single older people
- 588 Other

*One individual can have more than one vulnerability
**Other such as teenage pregnancy, single women at risk, people with chronic illness, etc.

FUTURE PLANS

Intended returnee’s stay duration in South Sudan
- 76% of households plan to stay permanently
- 0% of households are undecided
- 24%* of households plan to stay temporarily

Temporary stay for period between 1 and six months or as long as peace holds.

Reuniting with the family
- 50%* of households left immediate family members in the country of asylum
- 91% of households said their family members planned to meet them in South Sudan

*91% of those who left immediate family members in the country of asylum

Remaining immediate family members in Country of asylum
- Sudan
- Uganda
- Ethiopia
- DRC
- CAR
- Kenya
- South Sudan

Housing status of the returnees in South Sudan
- 46% of returnee household own house
- 27% of households owning houses, do not have access to it
- Top 3 reasons for no access
  1. Seriously damaged (59%)
  2. Completely destroyed (36%)
  3. Occupied by others (2%)

Relationship with host community
- 96% of the households feel safe in the current location
- 87% of households reported good relationship with the host community

Land status of return in South Sudan
- 86% of returnee households own land
- 11% of returnee households do not have access to it
- Top 3 reasons for no access
  1. Others (45%)
  2. Occupied by others (35%)
  3. Insecurity (21%)

Other: no available space, far from town, fear of previous fatigue, loneliness etc.

South Sudan

Top 5 reported protection incidents during travel

- Exploitation (corruption, Extortion)
- Theft of belongings
- Ration cards
- Loss of belongings
- Physical violence

85% of households paid with their own money
4% of households assisted by South Sudanese Authorities
6% were assisted by relatives and others

Mode of payment (Households)

261 individuals intend to join as long as peace continues
126 individuals intend to join within 3-6 months
213 individuals intend to join within 1-2 months
335 individuals intend to join later than 6 or more months

Permanent returnee’s intention
- 78% of households want to remain in the same village
- 7% of household are undecided/don’t want to answer
- 15%* of households have other plans

*Other: Move to another village in the same payam or to other county or state or leave South Sudan.

Author: UNHCR Representation Office in Juba, South Sudan.
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