

 **62,393**

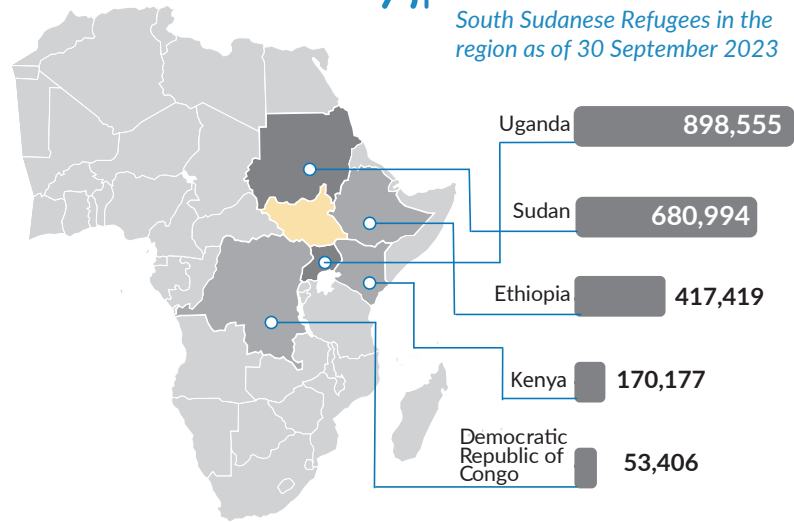
South Sudanese spontaneous refugee returnees have been reported in September 2023

An accumulated number of **997,743** spontaneous refugee returnees have been reported since the signing of the revitalized peace agreement in October 2018 to 30 September 2023

UNHCR and South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) are pleased to share this monthly update on spontaneous refugee returnees and the returns of South Sudanese returning in adverse circumstances ascribed to Sudan conflict between armed groups.

The dashboard highlights cross-border refugee movements of South Sudanese from neighboring countries during the month of September 2023

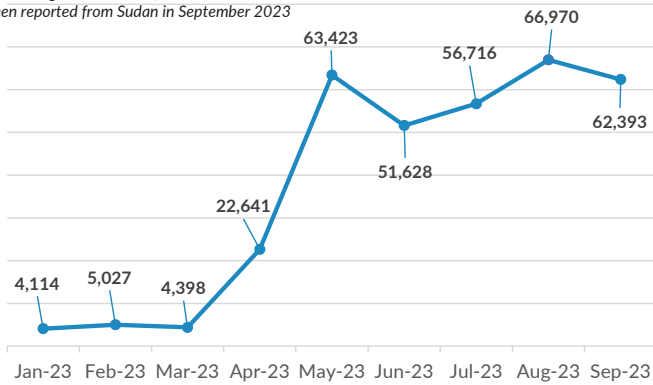
 **2.2 Million Refugees**
South Sudanese Refugees in the region as of 30 September 2023



UNHCR Sudan figure as of 30 September 2023

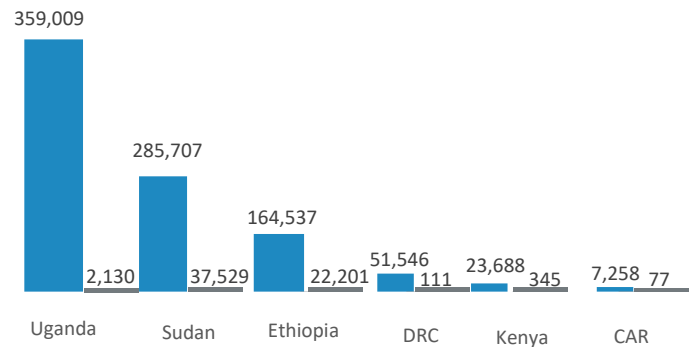
Monthly arrival for the last 9 months

According to UNHCR, IOM and RRC Joint border monitoring data, a total of **37,529** South Sudanese have been reported from Sudan in September 2023

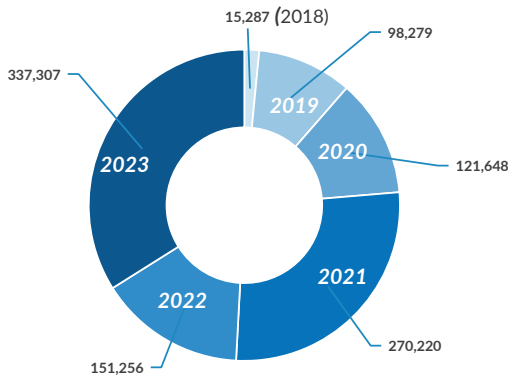


Spontaneous Refugee Returns by Country of Asylum

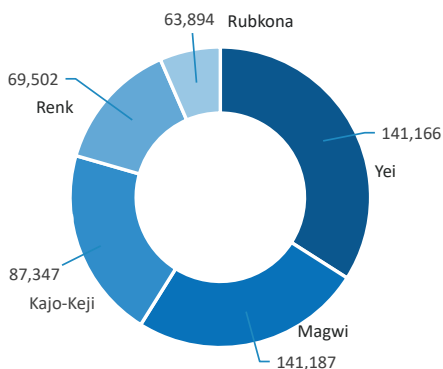
Legend:
█ Overall (October 2018- September 2023)
█ Current month (September 2023)



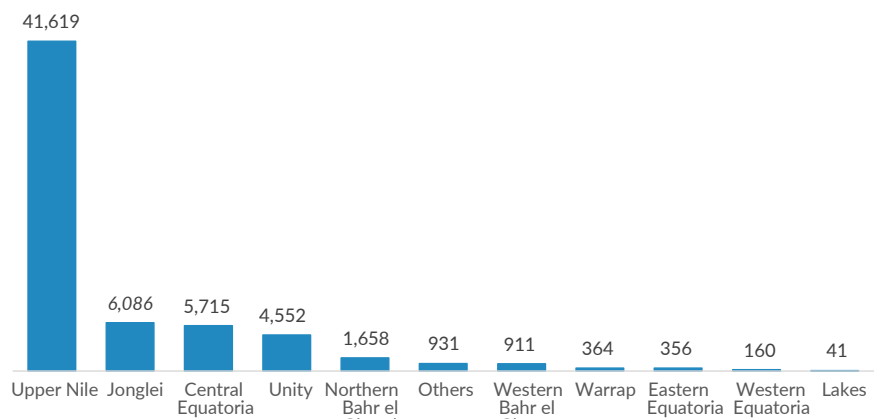
Returns from October 2018 - September 2023



Top 5 cumulative counties of return from October 2018 to September 2023

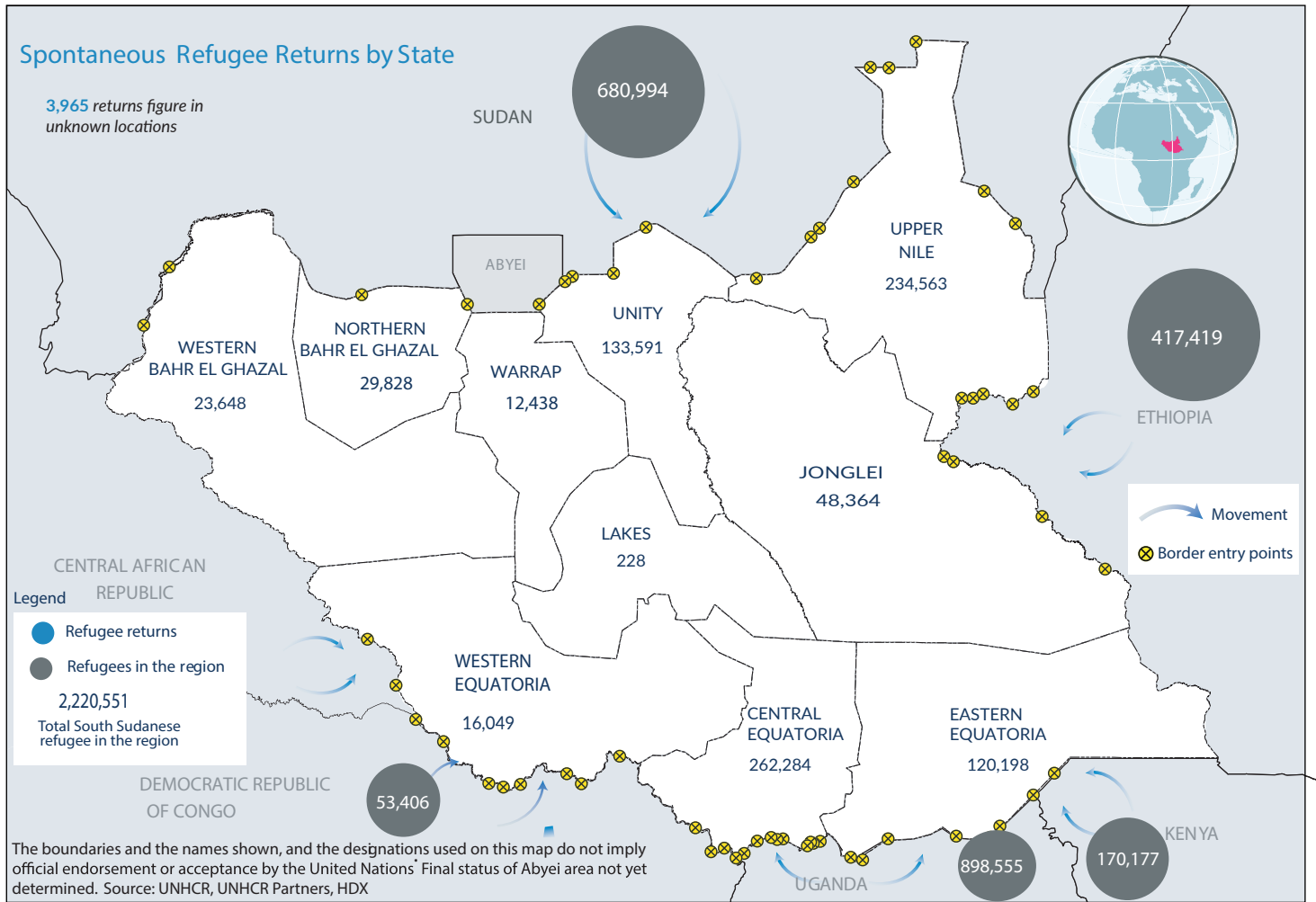


Returns per State for the month of September 2023



Top 3 border entry point - September 2023





KEY HIGHLIGHTS ON REFUGEE RETURNS

The return of **62,393** South Sudanese was verified and reported in September 2023. There is a slight decrease (7%) as compared to the returns recorded in the month of August 2023.

The slight decrease is due to ongoing fighting at the South Sudan/Ethiopian border and insecurity in border areas in DRC and CAR because of armed groups incursion, which impacted the spontaneous refugee returns to South Sudan during the reporting month.

Most of the returns in September 2023 were from Sudan through Wunthou (Joda) and from Ethiopia through Matar/Burebiey in Upper Nile and Akobo in Jonglei States.

This information on returnees was validated through **24** Focus Group Discussions and **188** key informant interviews during month of September 2023 in areas of return in the following **10** states of Upper Nile, Jonglei, Central Equatoria, Unity, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Warrap and Jonglei. Most of the verified returnees to the beforementioned States were mostly from Sudan (**60%**), Ethiopia (**36%**) and less than **10%** from Uganda, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central Africa Republic.

PUSH FACTORS

The most cited reasons for leaving Country of Asylum include:-

- I- Insecurity in country of asylum (**60%**).
- II- Lack of food in the Refugee camps (**23%**)
- III- Lack of employment, livelihood and economic opportunities (**15%**)

Contributing partners



PULL FACTORS

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

- I- Reunite with family members (**26%**)
- II- Improvement of security situation in South Sudan (**15%**)
- III- Check and attend to property (**9%**)

KEY PROTECTION CONCERNS AT BORDER POINTS AND IN AREAS OF RETURN ARE:

The most cited protection concerns at border points and in areas of returns include:-

- I- Exploitation (Corruption, Extortion) (**25%**)
- II- Physical violence (**9%**)
- III- Loss of belongings (**9%**)
- IV- Medical emergency (**8%**)

METHODOLOGY

The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) in collaboration with UNHCR and partners monitors cross-border movements in areas of high return and at 42 border entry points with Sudan recording the highest border entry points. Information is collected regularly at border points and in areas of high returns through KII and FGD. The information was then triangulated with data collected during physical observations, and meetings with local authorities, faith-based leaders, law enforcement agents, and immigration officers at border entry points and areas of returns.

Disclaimer: The number recorded is only indicative, and it covers the borders where UNHCR and partners currently have presence. It is most likely that more returnees are arriving to South Sudan than recorded due to using unofficial border points and/or travelling at night.