

Sudan Situation: Surge in Arrivals to South Sudan



New arrivals outside protection desk in Chemmedi, one of the new arrival locations in Renk County. ©UNHCR/Funmi Osibona



117,000+

Arrivals recorded through Renk entry points since Dec 1, 2025



USD 21 m

Required to meet needs



6

Entry points, **five** of which are unofficial.



35

Humanitarian **partners**

Key Highlights

- Over one million people have arrived in South Sudan from Sudan since April 2023, with 74% entering via border points in Renk. This marks a significant milestone in the response, with the sharp increase driven by a surge in arrivals to Renk since December 1, when fighting intensified in Sudan's Sennar, White, and Blue Nile states. Additional information can be found in the press release issued [here](#). Moreover Al Jazeera coverage on the milestone can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#).
- Humanitarian partners have determined that the surge response requires a total of USD 21 million over the next 10 months, including USD 17 million for immediate relief, and USD 4 million to prepare for the June-October rainy season - when many new arrival hosting areas will become inaccessible.
- Between January 13 and 19, border monitors recorded approximately 5,532 individuals arriving in South Sudan through six entry points in Renk County, representing a significant decrease compared to the previous week. Daily arrivals also dropped to an average of 790 per day, down from 1,400 per day the week prior. This decrease is likely a result of a temporary closures of Joda Border and apprehension following civil unrest in South Sudan targeting Sudanese nationals.
- Nationwide protests erupted in South Sudan following reports of the killing of South Sudanese citizens in Sudan's Wad Madani after its recapture. In retaliation, youth groups targeted Sudanese communities and businesses, forcing many to seek refuge at police posts, and government institutions. While Renk was not directly affected,

onward transportation from Malakal was temporarily halted and a decrease in arrivals through Renk borders was observed.

Situation Overview

Over the past week, 5,532 individuals crossed into Renk via six border points, a decline from the previous week's 1,400 daily arrivals to an average of 790. This drop is likely due to the temporary closure of Joda Border (13 and 19 January) following violence in Sudan's Alagaya Refugee Camp and unrest in South Sudan after the alleged killings of South Sudanese citizens in Sudan, after the recapture of Wad Madani on 11 January.

Despite a decline in arrivals, services in Renk remain severely overstretched. The transit centres currently host over 16,000 people—more than four times their intended capacity—while informal hosting sites face similar challenges, with the number of new arrivals outnumbering the host community by up to five times in certain locations.

While the host community remains welcoming, their goodwill may be strained if conditions and access to services continue to deteriorate. Especially as intention surveys indicate that most new arrivals prefer to stay near the border, hoping to return to Sudan if the security situation improves, rather than moving to other refugee hosting locations in South Sudan.

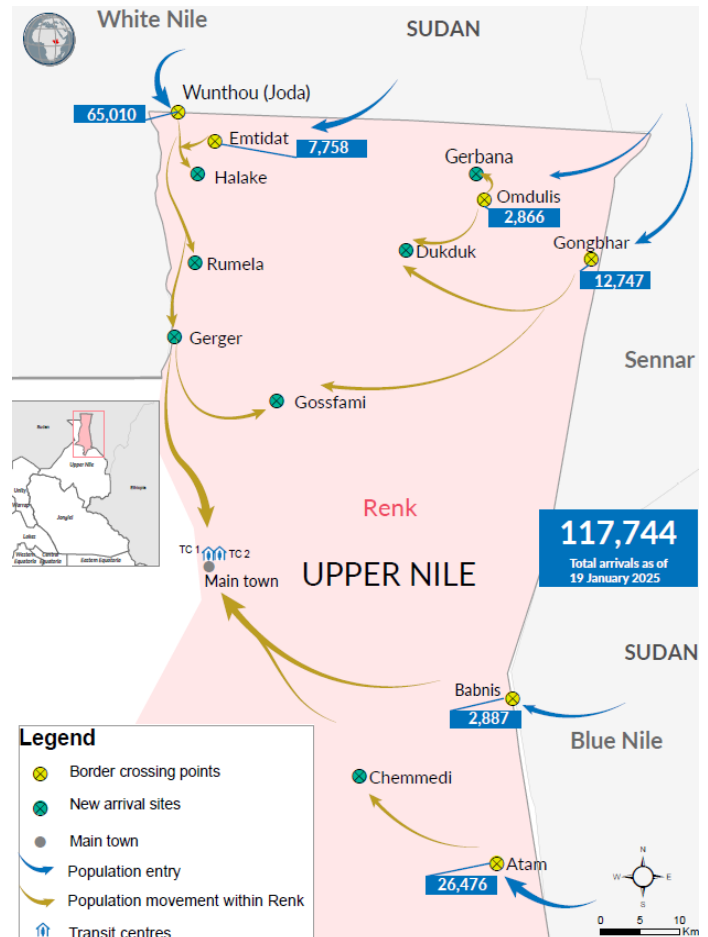
More importantly, the surge response faces critical funding shortages and with no new funds allocated, partners have been forced to reprioritise existing flexible resources from other activities. Urgent needs include USD 17 million for immediate relief however, an additional USD 4 million will be required to prepare for the June-October rainy season, when several new arrival locations will become inaccessible.

The estimated affected population includes 163,250 refugees and returnees, alongside 35,000 host community members. Without the required USD 21 million for the next 10 months - of which only USD 2 million is currently available - critical gaps in water, nutrition, and protection services will leave refugees, returnees, and host populations without essential support.

WASH actors have made progress in scaling up water provision, with water trucking underway at Gosfami and Bebnis and plans to extend to additional sites in the coming weeks. However, water supply in the Renk transit centres remains inadequate, with only 17 liters per person per day at the main center and 9 liters per person per day at the extension site - both below the recommended standard.

To address these challenges, there is an urgent need to expand WASH interventions across transit centers and new arrival sites to improve living conditions and support peaceful coexistence.

Border crossing arrivals since December 1, 2025



Source: UNHCR, RRC, IOM joint dashboard
 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

Response

ONWARD TRANSPORT

- Approximately 754 refugees were relocated from Renk transit centres to Maban. Since the start of the response, in April 2023, 13,500 refugees have been relocated onwards from Renk to refugee hosting locations across South Sudan.



PROTECTION

- The protection response across new arrival sites remains active, with protection desks established at border entry points and hosting villages in Chemmedi, Gerbena and Geger. Efforts to establish mobile registration for refugees are also underway with land secured for registration sites in Bebnis and other key new arrival locations. Although, it has been observed that many new arrivals have already traveled to Renk and registered voluntarily.
- Despite this, the sheer scale of displacement and the complexity of needs demand increased resource allocation. Protection reports highlight a rise in gender-based violence and child protection issues. In areas such as Gerbana, which hosts an estimated population of 20,000, allegations of exploitation of young girls in markets and tea houses have emerged and a general lack of educational facilities has left children vulnerable, pushing many into child labour and other harmful coping mechanisms.
- Reports from Emtidad crossing reveal significant challenges for unaccompanied children, elderly individuals without caregivers, and women. Many women reported leaving young boys behind to tend to cattle, bringing only surviving livestock with them. In Kilo Arrba, children have been separated from their families due to transportation difficulties, highlighting the urgent need for family reunification and targeted support for vulnerable groups.
- Refugees in Atam Boma expressed satisfaction with certain aspects of their living conditions, particularly the representation of women within the community. However, there is a critical need to increase awareness among refugees about available services, relocation opportunities and the importance of reporting gender-based violence and child protection issues. Strengthened community outreach and sensitization campaigns are necessary to address this gap.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Nutrition screening at the transit centers revealed concerning levels of malnutrition, with 3,252 children under five screened, identifying 4% as moderately malnourished and 2% as severely malnourished. The 2% severely malnourished rate scrapes the WHO emergency threshold, highlighting a need for proactive measures to prevent escalation. Additionally, screening of 1,269 pregnant and lactating women found 7% to be moderately malnourished, further emphasizing the critical need for targeted nutritional support.
- Partners completed distribution of fortified biscuits to 91,671 individuals since the start of the response at both official and unofficial new arrival locations. This includes 6,000 individuals who received biscuits during the reporting period.
- Partners also supported 452 families with livestock vaccination (21,900 cattle) and treatment (8,404 cattle). However, further assessment is required to determine the number of cattle held and improve access to veterinary services. There is also a need for additional medicines (Acaracides) for newly reported diseases (Tick Borne Diseases) and the need to construct three water points in Gergar, Chemmedi and Jelhak for cattle.

Previous updates on the situation are available [here](#).

**HEALTH**

- Health services remain critical priorities, with community feedback signaling significant improvements in health services provided by partners in host community areas. These improvements are especially evident in Gerbana, Dukduk, Atam, Bobnis, and Chemmedi, where large numbers of returnees, host communities, and refugees reside. However, despite this, ongoing support from mobile clinics and the Chemmedi Health Centre, which serves those within commuting distance - significant health needs persist for many individuals in remote or underserved areas.
- At the Renk transit centres, health actors conducted 5,730 health consultations, 57% of which were returnees, 36% refugees, and 7% from the host community. Acute respiratory infections, malaria, and watery diarrhoea were the most commonly treated illnesses.
- In the cholera response, 582 suspected cases have been reported, marking an 8% increase from the previous week. Among these, 29% (169 cases) tested positive via rapid diagnostic tests, and three deaths have been recorded since the outbreak began. Among the new cases 53% are returnees, 18% refugees, and 29% host residents. One additional culture-confirmed case from Gosfami brings the cumulative total to 20 confirmed cases. To mitigate further spread, mobile cholera prevention messages and broadcasts are being conducted in Joda covering the areas of Rumela, and Halaka, targeting 30,000 people.

**WATER AND SANITATION**

- WASH actors continue to maintain and operate sanitation facilities at the Renk transit centres, where 30 latrine blocks and 30 bathing shelters are available to support the current hosted population of over 16,000 individuals.
- Across new arrival sites, water trucking and provision systems have been established in locations such as Gosfami (30m³/day) and Bebnis (40m³/day), with plans to expand to Atam and Gerbana in the coming week. However, these short-term measures are unsustainable due to access challenges during the rainy season and funding limited to 60 days - half of which has already been utilized. There is an urgent need for a sustainable water supply system to address these constraints.
- In Gerbana, partners are setting up a bladder tank - a portable water storage system designed for emergency use, to improve water access. However, critical shortages persist in Dukduk, where the community chief has requested road clearance to the Remela river site to enhance water access. The Hafira water supply there and in other locations is running low, requiring immediate intervention to prevent public health challenges.

Working in Partnership and Funding

- UNHCR is leading Inter-Agency Coordination in Renk. A Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator is based in Renk and reports to the Humanitarian Coordinator and UNHCR Representative, due to the mixed nature of the inflows.
- Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds and those who have contributed directly to the response. The South Sudan Chapter of the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan 2024 was only 24% funded at the end of 2024, while the South Sudan 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan was funded at 64%.
- [South Sudan Country Refugee Response Plan 2025](#) was launched on 20 December, appealing for USD 468 million to meet emergency needs and longer-term solutions for refugees and to support host communities.

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