



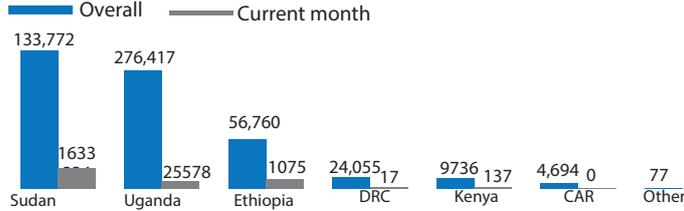
28,440

South Sudanese refugee returnees has been reported in December 2021. A cumulative number of **505,511** refugee returnees have been reported since the signing of the revitalized peace agreement in October 2018.

UNHCR and South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) are pleased to share this monthly update on spontaneous South Sudanese refugee returnees.

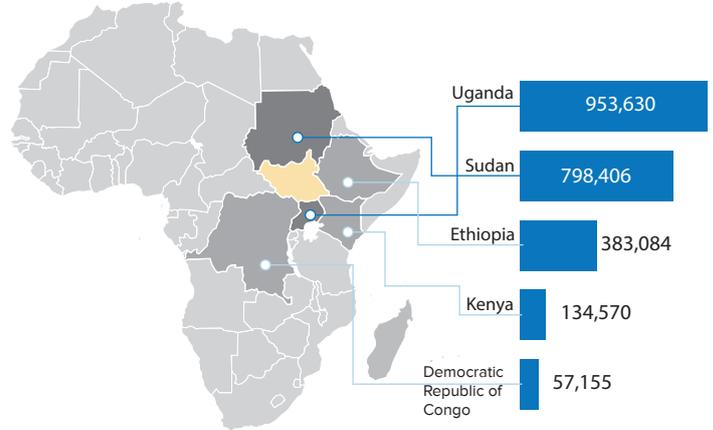
The dashboard highlights cross-border refugee movements between Neighboring countries and South Sudan during December 2021.

Spontaneous refugee returnees by Country of Asylum

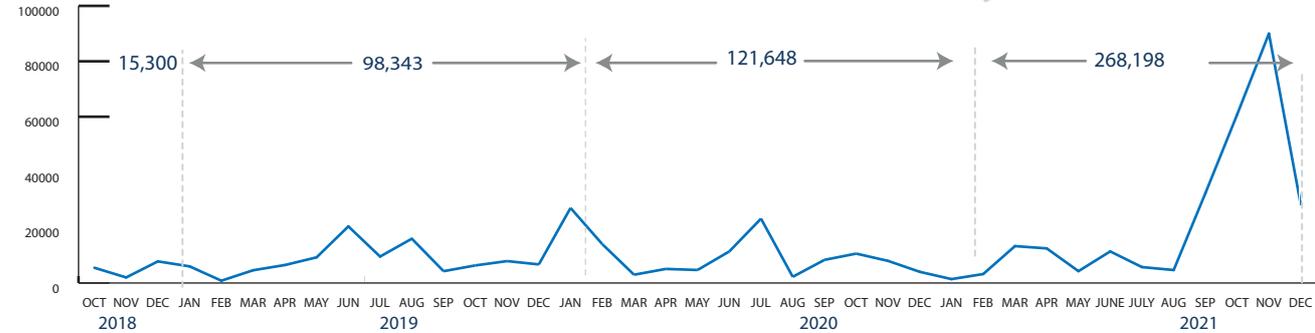


2.3 Million refugees

South Sudanese Refugees in the region as of 30 November 2021

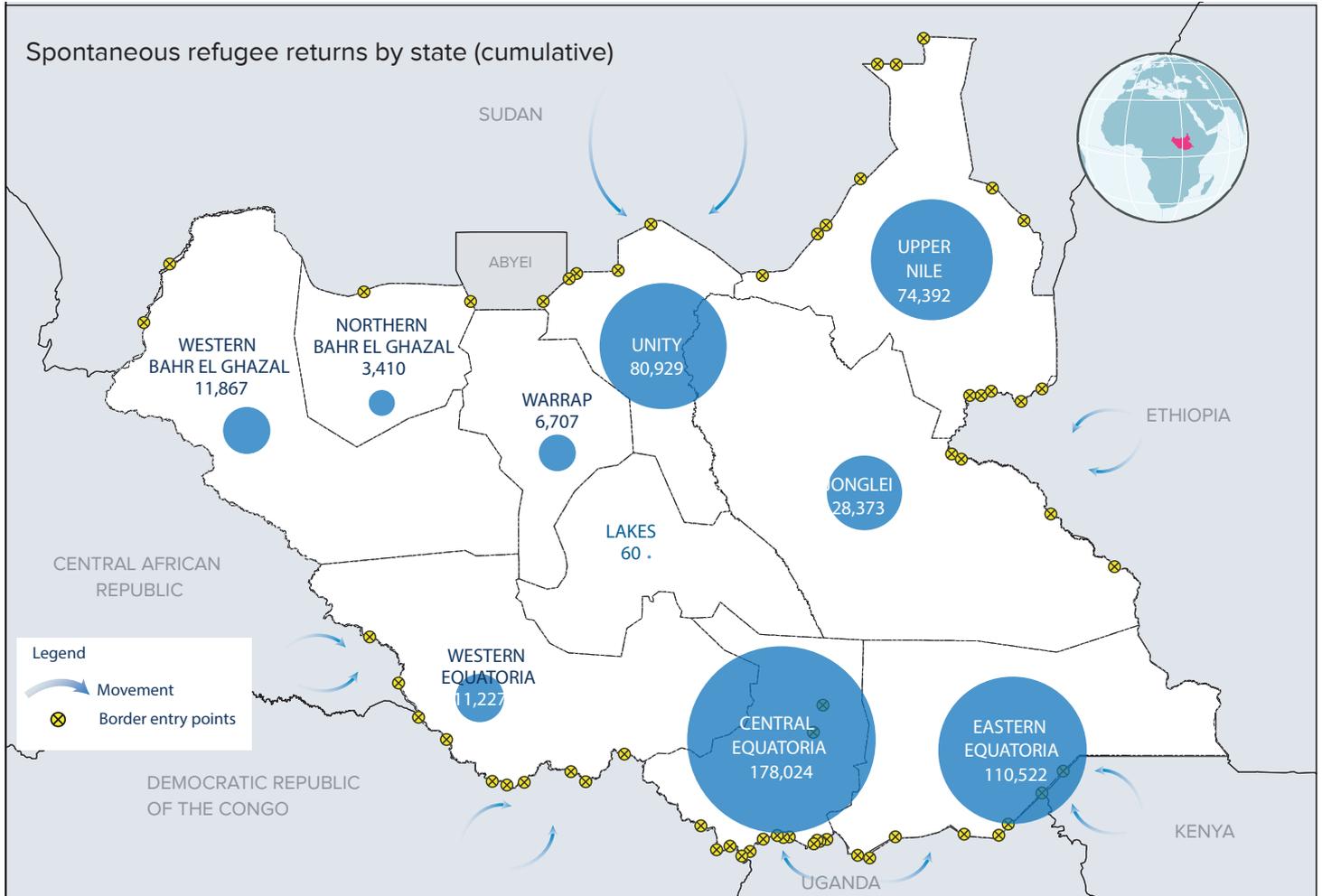


Returns from 2018 - 2021



An estimated 268,198 refugees were reported as having returned to South Sudan in 2021 of which 28,440 have returned in December alone.

Spontaneous refugee returns by state (cumulative)



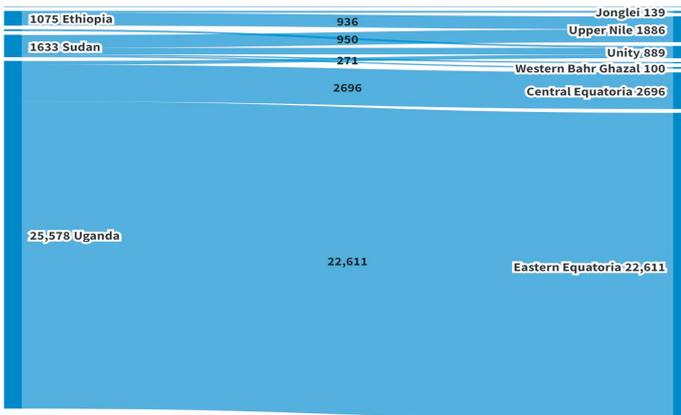
Key highlights on refugee returns and cross border movements

Return of 28,440 South Sudanese refugee has been reported in December 2021. This was a slight decrease in return as there was restriction in movement from the borders due to the upsurge in coronavirus.

Information on returnees was collected in 45 Focus Group Discussions and 82 key informant interviews conducted during December in areas of return in the following states: Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, and Western Equatoria. Most of the verified returnees to the nine States were from Uganda (55%), Sudan (26%), Ethiopia (11%), and less than 10% from DRC, Kenya, and CAR. The majority of the returnees to Unity, Bahr el Ghazal, Jonglei, and the upper Nile State had come from Sudan and Ethiopia. Most of the returnees from Uganda were to Central and Eastern Equatoria, and a few others to Upper Nile State.

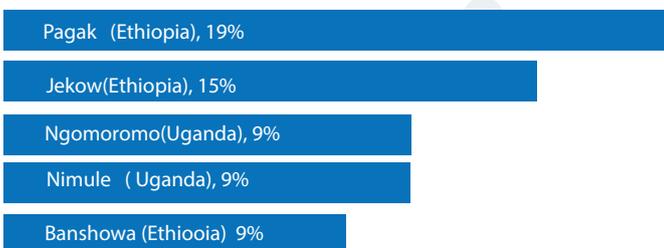
During the reporting month, border monitoring reports were received from 19 border crossing points where 1,129 South Sudanese returned to SSD, from the following countries: DRC 560, Uganda 294, Sudan 204, and Kenya 71 individuals.

Returnee sources in neighboring countries/destination in SSD



The most frequent border crossing points were Nimule, Ngomoro, Nadapal, Kajokeji and Pagak with Ethiopia

Five most used border crossing points during December 2021



Reason for returning to South Sudan

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

- Improvement of security situation in South Sudan (41%).
- Reuniting with family members (33%).
- Improved availability of services in South Sudan (16%).

Reason for leaving country of asylum

- Lack of access to basic services (57%).
- Insecurity especially in Ethiopia and Sudan (44%).
- Lack of employment and livelihood opportunities (32%).

Key protection concerns at border points and in areas of return (as reported by returned refugees) are:

- Renewed armed confrontation in Magenis in Upper Nile state leading to the displacement of the scores of people including spontaneous refugee returnees along the border with Sudan.
- Extortion of money at Raja, Joda and Abyei region.
- Ethnic and intercommunal violence especially in area of Jonglei and Tonj in Warrap..
- Recent fighting between Messira tribe from Sudan and Dinka malual in Abyei leaving 24 dead and unspecified number of people displaced.

Methodology

The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) in coordination with UNHCR and partners monitor cross-border movements at 37 border entry points and in areas of high return. Information is collected through interviews with the returnees at border point and community based/household-level assessments regularly in areas of high return. This information is then triangulated with data collected from focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and meetings with local authorities and faith-based leaders, law enforcement agents, and immigration officers in the border entry points and areas of returns.

Contributing partners



With support from

