From Oct 2018 to date, 592,082 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 2022, 1907 households were interviewed from April to June 2022 corresponding to approximately 13,590 people in all the ten states of Unity, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Jonglei, Warrap, Lakes, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria and Upper Nile States.

**THE RETURNEES**

**# of HH interview**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># of Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,907 households</td>
<td>13,590 individuals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Demographics**

- **Female-headed households:** 56%
- **Child-headed households:** 0.4%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-17</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-59</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of Individuals per county**

**Sample sources/destinations (individuals)**

![Sample sources/destinations chart](chart.png)

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.

Feedback: ssdjuodm@unhcr.org

Refugee Returnee statistics: UNHCR and Partners.

Author: UNHCR Representation Office in South Sudan.
Refugee returnee household survey

THE JOURNEY

Reported reasons for return
(Households)

Mode of transport (households)

- 38% of households returned by collective/private car
- 19% of households returned by bus
- 17% of households returned on foot
- 9% of households returned by boat

Vulnerabilities identified (cases)*

- 77 Older people unable to care for themselves
- 99 Child carer
- 103 Unaccompanied children
- 49 Single older people
- 811* Other

Mode of payment (households)

- 86% of households paid with their own money
- 15% of households assisted by South Sudanese Authorities

Top 5 reported protection incidents

- Theft of belonging (628)
- Death by landmine (197)
- Deportation (171)
- Killing/murder (169)
- Physical violence (82)

FUTURE PLANS

Intended return duration

- 81% of households plan to stay permanently
- 15% of households are undecided
- 9%* 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

- 51%* of households left immediate family members in the country of asylum
- 80% of households said their family members planned to meet them in South Sudan

*51% of those who left immediate family members in the country of asylum

Remaining immediate family members in Country of asylum

- Sudan
- Uganda
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- DRC
- CAR
- No data

Housing in South Sudan

- 69% of returnee household own house
- 31% of households owning houses, do not have access to it

Top 3 reasons for no access

- Destroyed (52%)
- Damaged (40%)
- Occupied by others (10%)

Land in the South Sudan

- 91% of returnee households own land
- 19% of returnee households do not have access to it

Top 3 reasons for no access

- Occupied by others (23%)
- Insecurity (43%)
- Other (33%)

Permanent returnee’s intention

- 84% of households want to remain in the same village
- 8% of households are undecided/don’t want to answer
- 7%* of households have other plans

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

Immediate family members return plan

- 544 individuals intend to join as long as peace continues
- 281 individuals intend to join within 3-6 months
- 282 individuals intend to join within 1-2 months
- 131 individuals intend to join later than 6 or more months

Relationship with host community

- 90% of the households feel safe in the current location
- 78% of households reported good relationship with the host community

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

Reasons for departures from country of asylum

1. Lack of employment and livelihood opportunities in CoA (34%)
2. Lack of access to basic services (33%)
3. Insecurity in country of asylum (13%)

Reasons for returning to South Sudan

1. Improvement of security situation in South Sudan (29%)
2. Reunite with family members (25%)
3. Improved availability of services in South Sudan (17%)

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

Author: UNHCR Representation Office in South Sudan.