Overview of Spontaneous Refugee Returns

SOUTH SUDAN
AS OF AUGUST 2024

36,887

South Sudanese spontaneous refugee returnees have been reported in August 2024

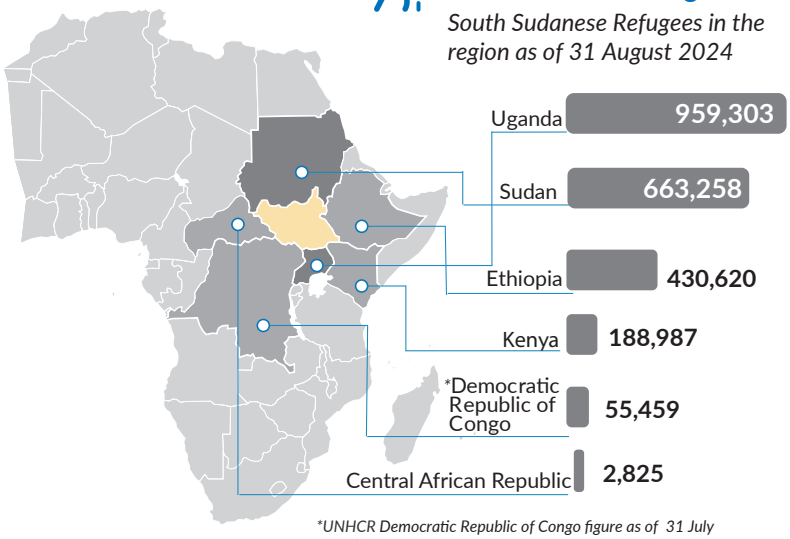
An accumulated number of **1,503,835** spontaneous refugee returnees have been reported since the signing of the revitalized peace agreement in October 2018 to 31 August 2024.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in South Sudan and the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) are hereby pleased to share the monthly update detailing the status of spontaneous refugee returns in South Sudan. This update specifically addresses the South Sudanese returning who have been adversely affected by the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

The dashboard highlights cross-border refugee movements of South Sudanese from neighboring countries during the month of August 2024.

2.3 Million Refugees

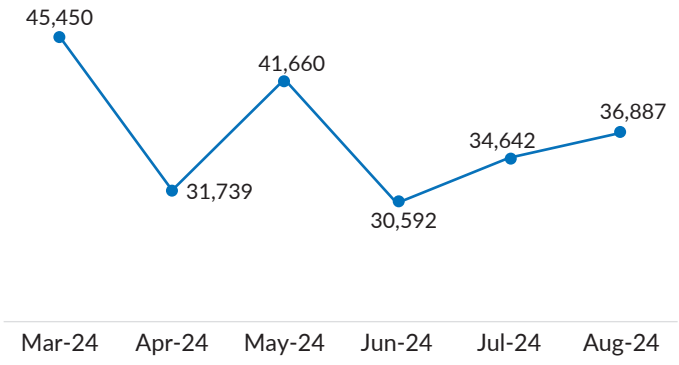
South Sudanese Refugees in the region as of 31 August 2024



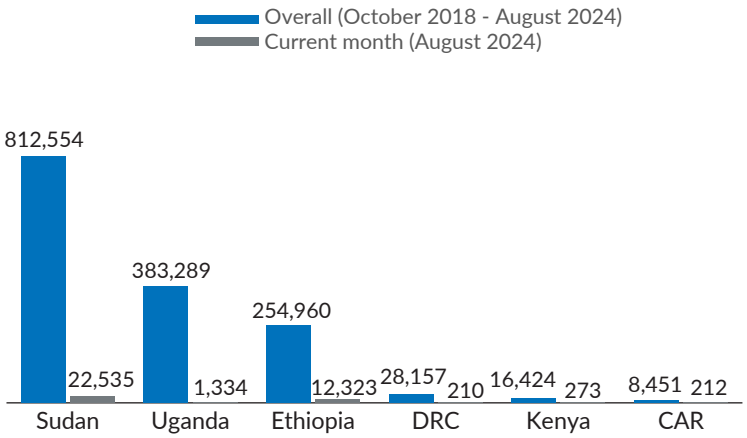
UNHCR Democratic Republic of Congo figure as of 31 July 2024

Monthly arrivals for the last 6 months

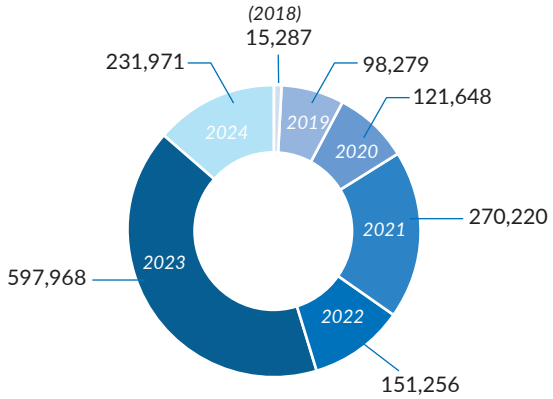
According to UNHCR, IOM and RRC Joint border monitoring data, a total of 22,535 South Sudanese have been reported from Sudan in August 2024.



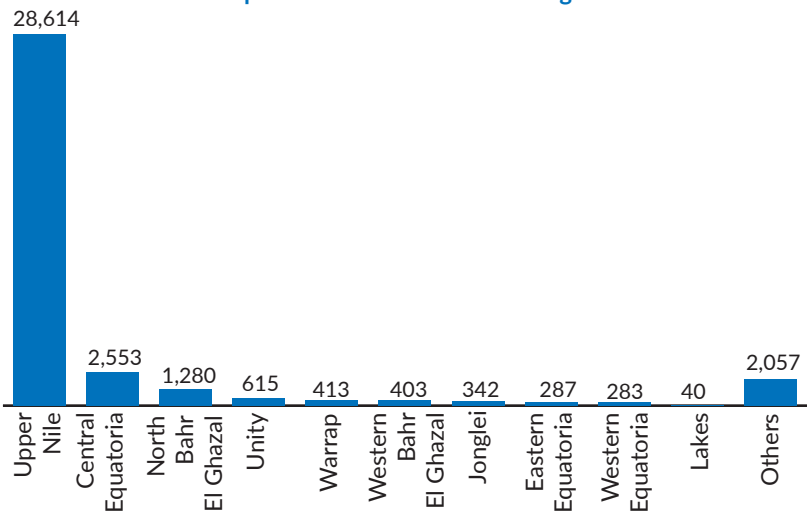
Spontaneous Refugee Returns by Country of Asylum



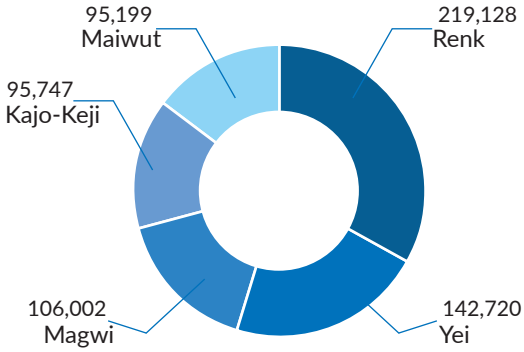
Returns from October 2018 to August 2024



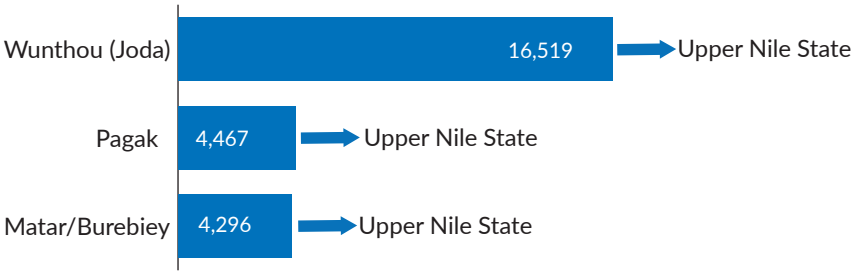
Returns per State for the month of August 2024



Top 5 cumulative counties of return from October 2018 to August 2024

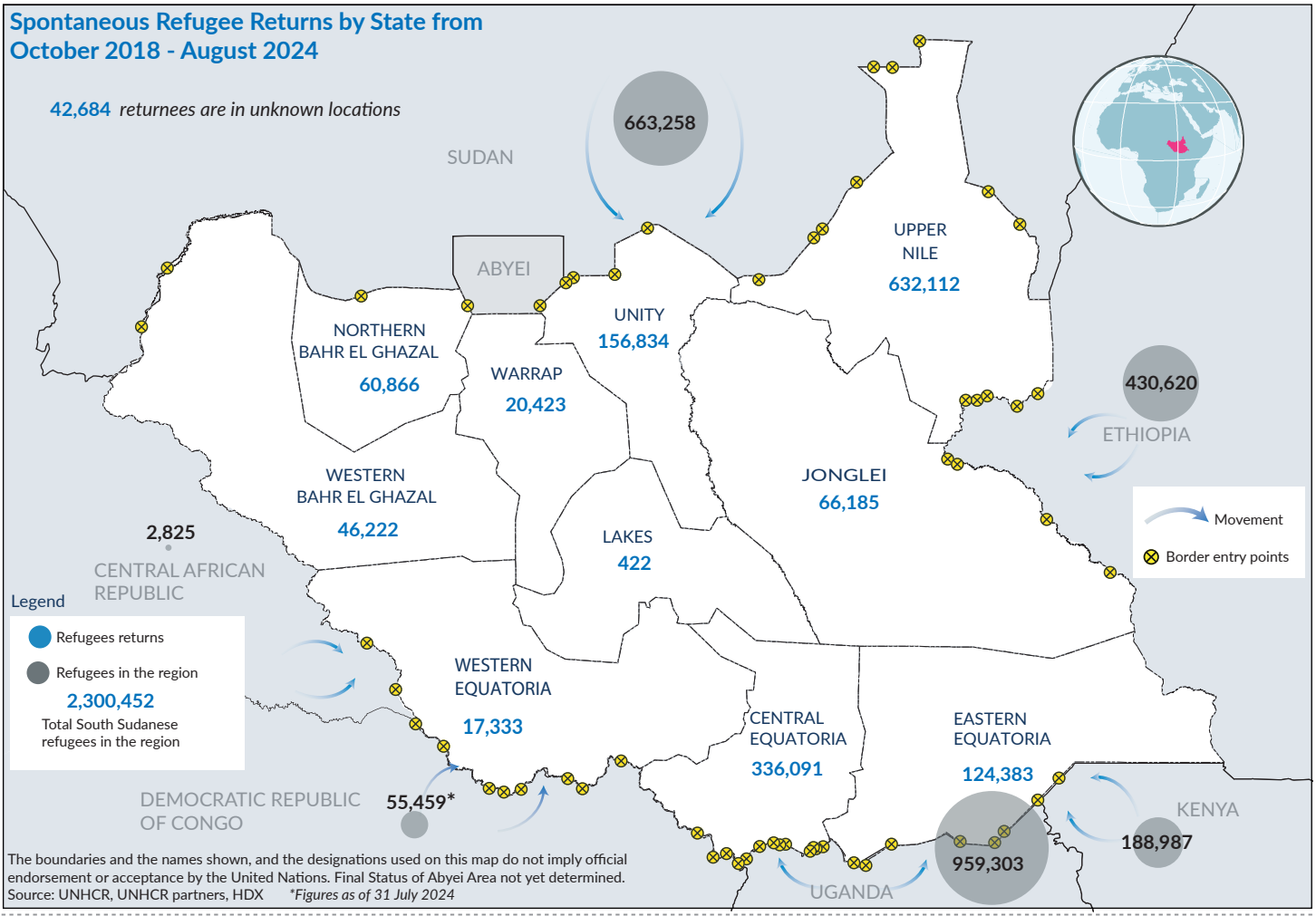


Top 3 border entry point - August 2024



Overview of Spontaneous Refugee Returns

SOUTH SUDAN
AS OF AUGUST 2024



KEY HIGHLIGHTS ON REFUGEE RETURNS

The return of **36,887** South Sudanese was verified and reported in August 2024. There is a slight increase **(6%)** as compared to the returns recorded in the month of July 2024.

The increase is due to insecurity in some of the countries of asylum especially Sudan, reduction of food rations and lack of employment and livelihood opportunities which impacted the spontaneous refugee returns to South Sudan during the reporting month.

Most of the returns in August 2024 were from Sudan through Wunthou (Joda) crossing point in Upper Nile State while returns from Ethiopia were through Matar/Burebiey and Pagak in Upper Nile State.

This information on returnees was validated through UNHCR - IOM, RRC joint border monitoring on Sudan, Ethiopian and UNHCR Spontaneous Refugee border monitoring interviews for Uganda, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Central Africa Republic during month of August 2024 in areas of return in the following **10** states; Upper Nile, Central Equatoria, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Warrap, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Jonglei, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria and Lakes. Most of the verified returnees were from Sudan **(61%)** while **(33%)** were from Ethiopia and less than **10%** were from Uganda, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic.

PUSH FACTORS

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

- Insecurity in country of asylum **(41%).**
- Lack of employment and livelihoods opportunities **(16%).**
- Lack of access to basic services **(15%).**

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

PULL FACTORS

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

- Reunite with family members **(11%)**
- Permanent return to country of origin **(11%)**
- Short visit to assess land/property/ housing **(2%)**

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

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

- Exploitation (Corruption, Extortion) **(15%)**
- Loss of Belongings/Theft, robbery, extortions **(11%)**
- Freedom of movement/sieges (arrest or detention) **(7%)**
- Medical emergency **(6%)**

METHODOLOGY

UNHCR in collaboration with Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) and partners monitors cross-border movements in areas of high return 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.*