



### 345,433

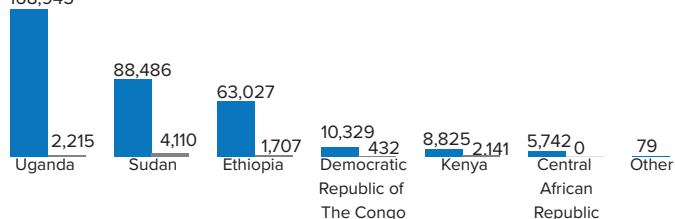
Cumulative number of reported refugee returnees since Nov 2107, of which **224,747** returned following signing the revitalized peace agreement in October 2018.

**\*Methodology:**

In coordination with the office of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), UNHCR and its partners triangulate received reports at community level in areas of return through focus group discussion, key informant interview as well as through meetings with traditional community leaders, religious leaders, representatives of local administration and law enforcement authorities coupled with the observations by the monitoring teams.

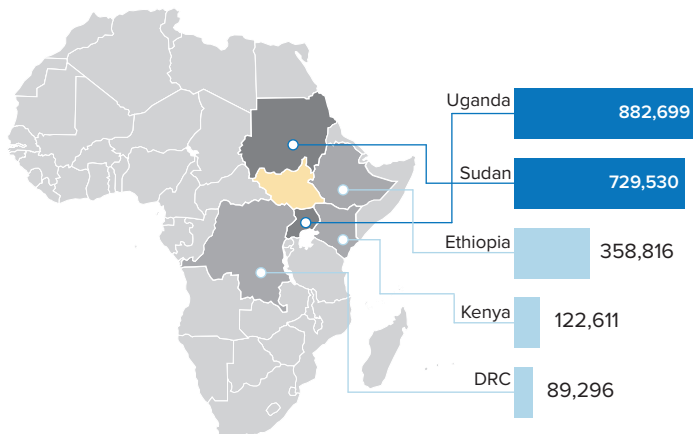
### Spontaneous refugee returnees by Country of Asylum

● Overall ● July and August

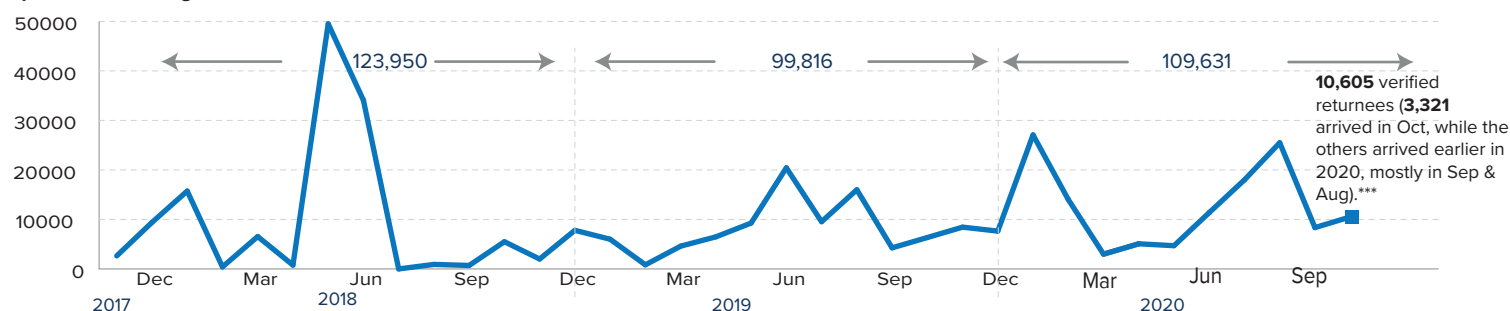


### 2,182,952

South Sudanese refugees in the region as of 30 September 2020

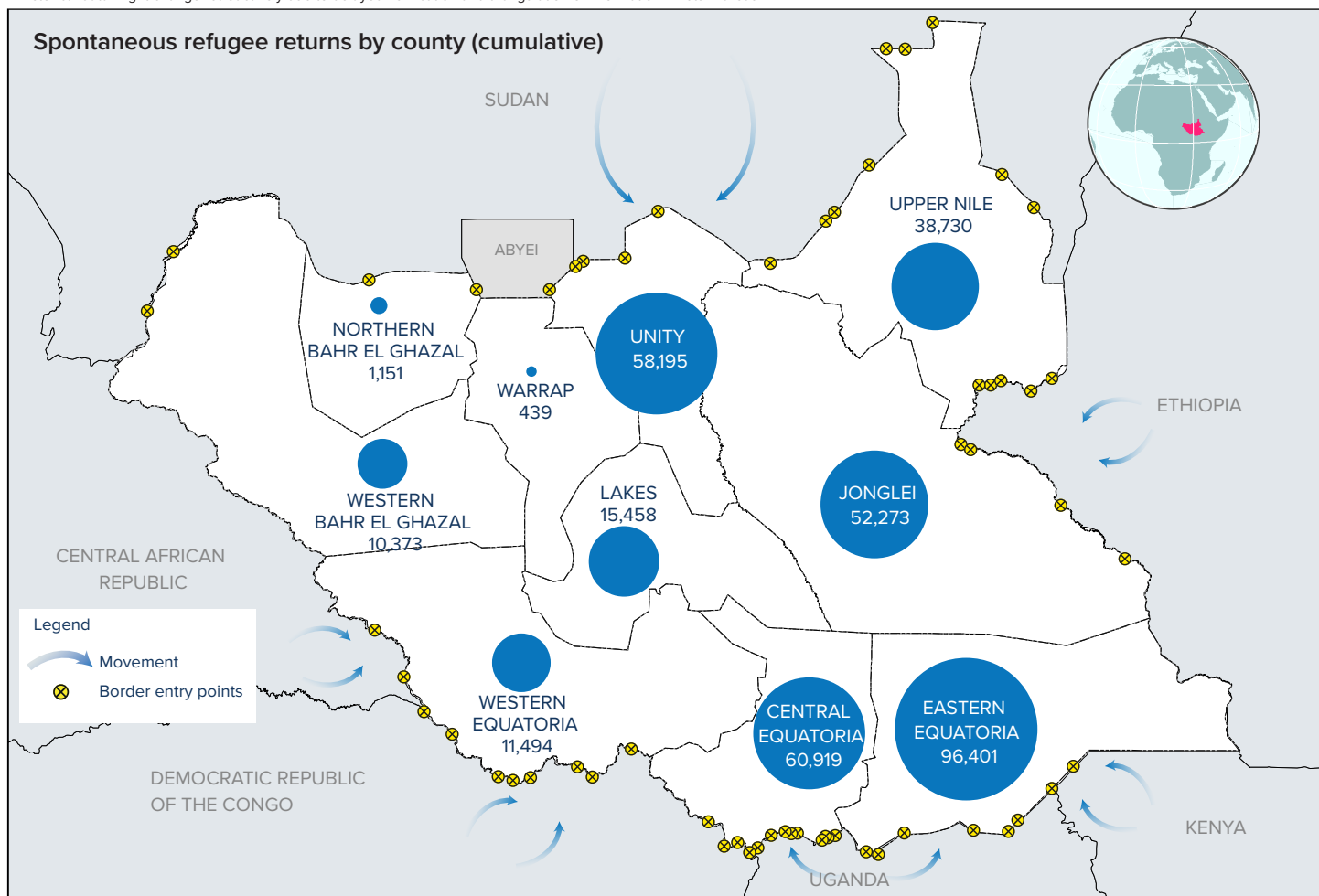


### Spontaneous refugee return trend\*\*



\*\*\* 10,605 is the overall verified return in Oct. including those who had arrived earlier within the year but were verified in Oct. and out of which 3,321 returned in Oct. mainly from Sudan, Uganda and Kenya to Eastern Equatoria (Magwi county), Unity (mainly Koch county) and Upper Nile (mainly Ulang county)

\*\*Historical data might change retroactively due to delayed verification and triangulation of information in return areas

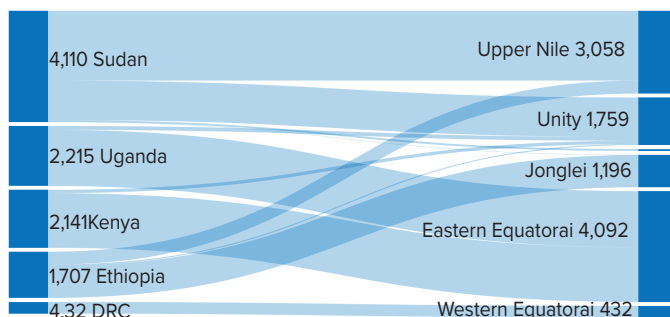


UNHCR and South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) are pleased to share the October 2020 monthly update on spontaneous South Sudanese refugee returns. The dashboard highlights cross border refugee movements between neighbouring countries and South Sudan, verified returns and conditions in return areas across South Sudan in October 2020.

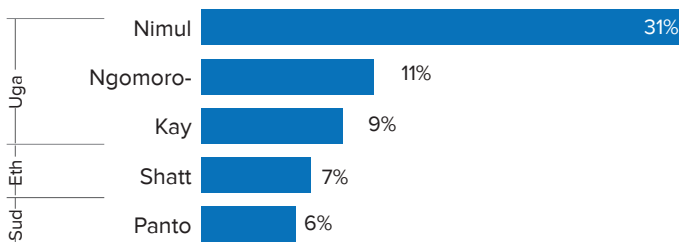
## Key highlights on refugees' returns and cross border movements

- i. 3,321 spontaneous refugee returnees were verified to have arrived to South Sudan in October. This is a reduction as compared to the previous month. However, an additional 7,284 were verified in October, who arrived earlier in 2020 (mostly in August and September 2020). This brings total of spontaneous refugee returns verified in October to 10,605.
- ii. The majority of spontaneous returns arrived from Sudan (4,110), Uganda (2,215), Kenya (2,141), Ethiopia (1,707), DRC (432). They mainly returned to Eastern Equatoria, Upper Nile, Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile states.
- iii. An increase in cross-border refugee movement was also observed with Uganda and Ethiopia – with 6,908 individuals reported at key border crossing points, as shown below.

Top 5 CoA/intended destination states



Top 5 Used BCPs in August - October



- iv. The main reasons for return and cross border movements by the refugees are:

### 1) Inflows

- Lack of livelihoods opportunities in the countries of asylum

- Improved security in South Sudan
- Lack of access to basic services

### 2) Outflows

- Floods
- Food shortage, mainly in Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei and Upper Nile states
- Insecurity in Central Equatoria– (led to South Sudanese movements from Kajo-Keji to Uganda)

- v. The conditions at border points and in return areas, as reported by South Sudanese refugees, are:

- Reported cases of extortion by authorities at border points
- GBV incidences in return areas in Eastern Equatoria and Upper Nile States
- Lack of shelter in host communities as they plan to construct own shelter this dry season.
- There is limited capacity by authorities to respond to COVID-19 positive cases at Nimule border point. Among confirmed positive cases are spontaneous refugees.

## Methodology

To inform the protection and humanitarian response and assess the needs of South Sudanese refugee returnees, the Government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) – in coordination with UNHCR and partners – monitor cross border movements at 37 strategic border points, and their condition in return areas. Enumerators collect spontaneous returnees' data via the KOBO data collection tool. These figures are then triangulated with data from focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and meetings with local leaders and religious leaders, law enforcement, and immigration officials in the area of returns. Regular protection information is collected at border points through key informant interviews and continuous household assessments in areas of high returns.

## Contributing Partners

ADRA  
American Refugee Council (ARC)  
CARE International  
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)  
Hope Restoration South Sudan (HRSS)  
Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC)  
Mission to Alleviate Suffering in South Sudan (MASS)  
South Sudan Older Persons Organization (SSOPO)  
South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC)  
Women Development Group (WDG)