Overview of Spontaneous Refugee Returns

SOUTH SUDAN
AS OF AUGUST 2023

66,970

South Sudanese spontaneous refugee returnees have been reported in August 2023

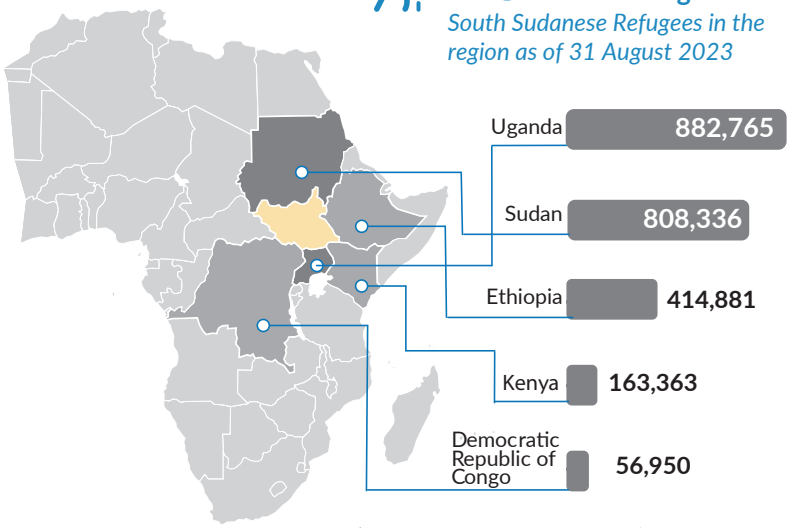
An accumulated number of **935,350** *spontaneous refugee returnees have been reported since the signing of the revitalized peace agreement in October 2018 to 31 August 2023*

UNHCR and South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) are pleased to share this monthly update on spontaneous refugee returnees and the returns of South Sudanese returning in adverse circumstance ascribing to Sudan conflict between arm groups.

The dashboard highlights cross-border refugee movements of South Sudanese from neighboring countries during the month of August 2023

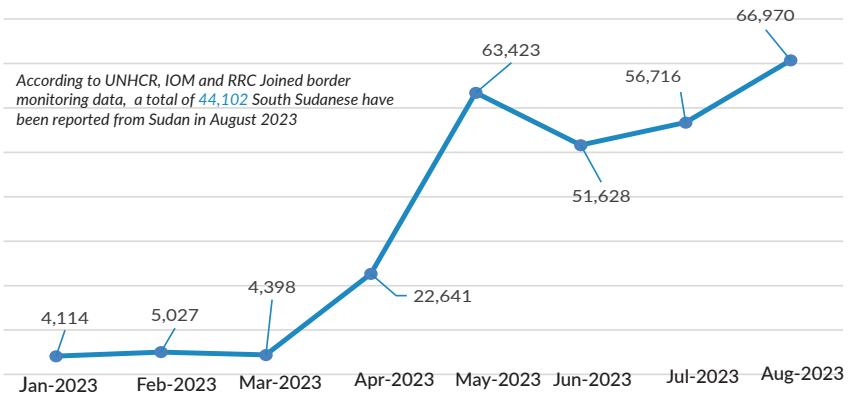
2.3 Million Refugees

South Sudanese Refugees in the region as of 31 August 2023

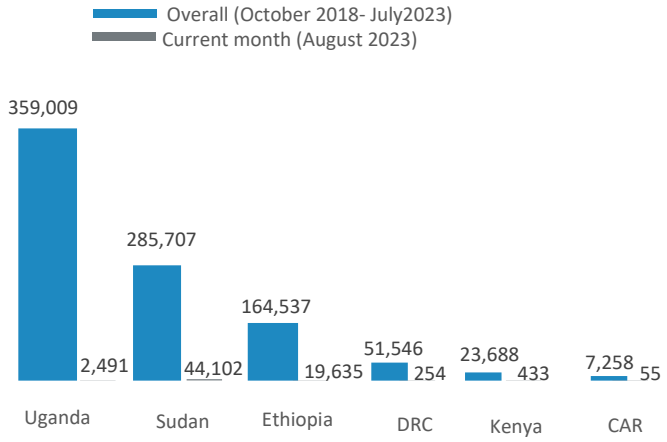


Sudan figure as of 31 March 2023

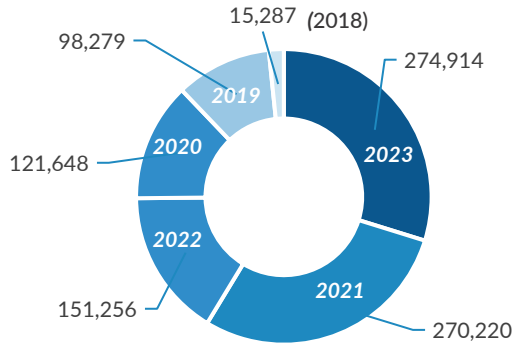
Monthly arrival for the last 8 months



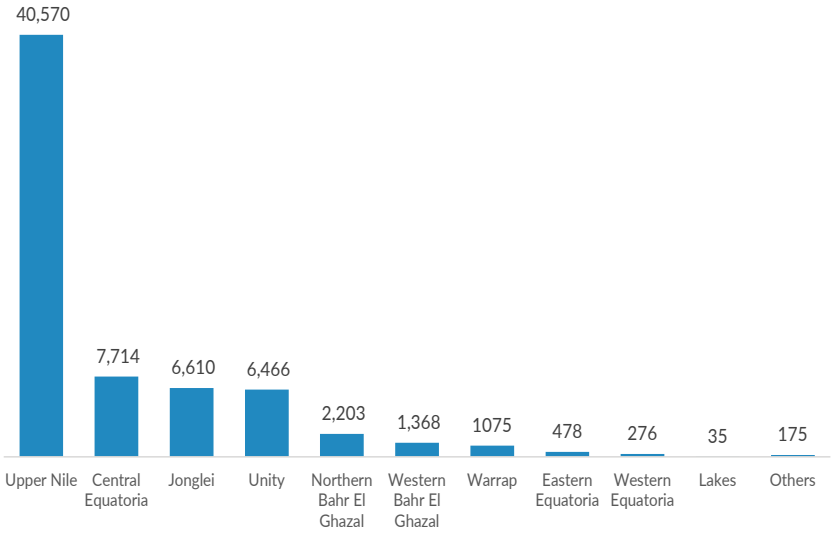
Spontaneous Refugee Returns by Country of Asylum



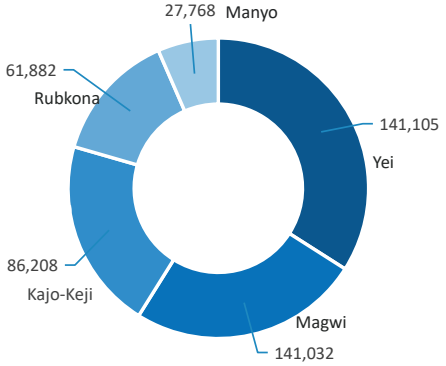
Returns from October 2018 - August 2023



Return per States for the month of August 2023



Top 5 cumulative counties of return from October 2018 to August 2023



Top 3 border entry point August 2023

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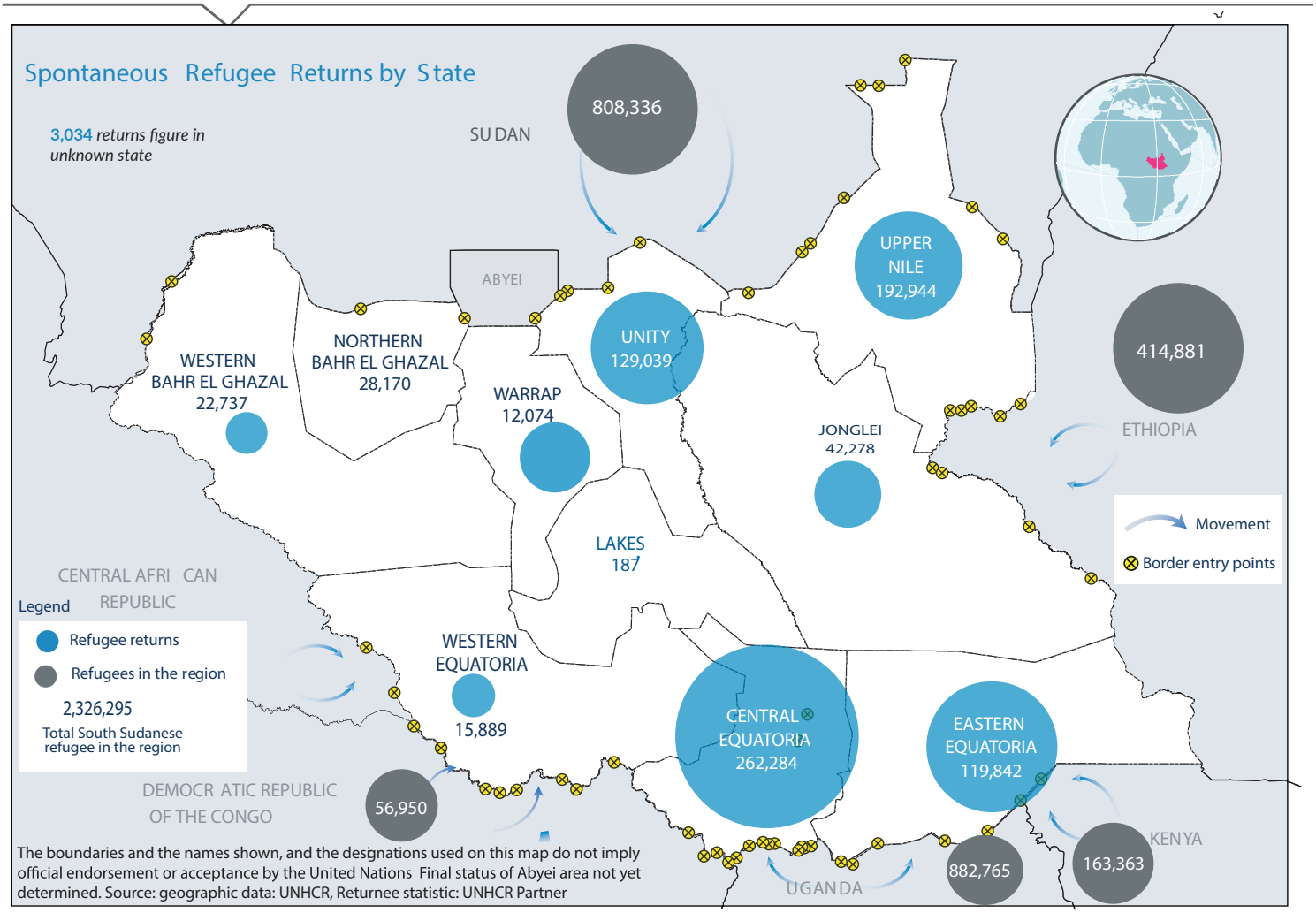

KEY HIGHLIGHTS ON REFUGEE RETURNS

The return of **66,970** South Sudanese spontaneous refugees was verified and reported in August 2023. This is significant increase as compared to the returns recorded in the month of July 2023.

The significant increase is due to conflict in country of Asylum especially in Sudan impacting the spontaneous refugee returns to South Sudan.

Most of the returns for August 2023 were from Sudan through Wunthou (Joda) in Upper Nile, Panakuach in Unity and Kir Adam in Northern Bahr El Ghazal States border crossing points of South Sudan. In addition, to return from Ethiopia crossed via Matar/Burebiey and Pagak in Upper Nile and Pochalla in Jonglei and States.

This information on returnees was corroborated through 46 Focus Group Discussions and 26 key informant interviews during month of August 2023 in areas of return in the following 10 states of Upper Nile,Unity, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria and Jonglei. Most of the verified returnees to nine States were mostly from Sudan (66%), Ethiopia (29%) and less than 10% from Uganda, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central Africa Republic.

PUSH FACTORS

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

I- Insecurity in country of asylum **(26%).**

II- Reunite with family members **(23%)**

III- Lack of employment and livelihood opportunities **(11%)**

PULL FACTORS

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

I- Reunite with family members (44%)

II- Improvement of security situation in South Sudan **(19%)**

III- Check and attend to property **(11%)**

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:-

I- Exploitation (Corruption, Extortion) (37%)

II- Physical violence (9%)

III- Loss of belongings (9%)

IV- Medical emergency (8%)

METHODOLOGY

The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) in collaboration with UNHCR and partners monitors cross-border movements in areas of high return and at 42 border entry points with Sudan recording the highest border entry points. Information is collected through interviews with returnees at border points and in areas of high returns through KII and FGD regularly in areas of high return. The information was then triangulated with data collected during physical observations, and meetings with local authorities and faith-based leaders, law enforcement agents, and immigration officers at border entry points and areas of returns

Contributing partners