SOUTH SUDAN

Overview of spontaneous refugee returns

(as of September 2020)

334,828

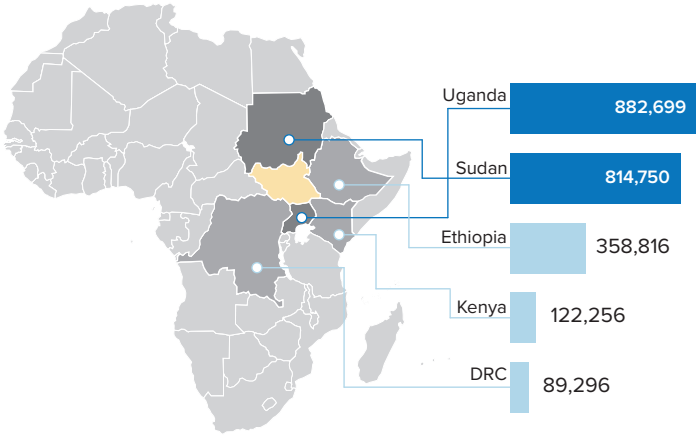
Cumulative number of reported refugee returnees since Nov 2107, of which **214,142** returend follwoing signing the revitalized peace agreement in October 2018.

***Methodology:**

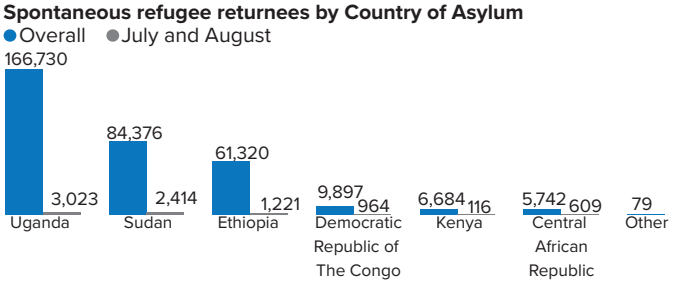
In coordination with the office of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), UNHCR and its partners triangulate received reports at community level in areas of return through focus group discussion, key informant intervew as well as through meetings with traditional community leaders, religious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

2,267,817

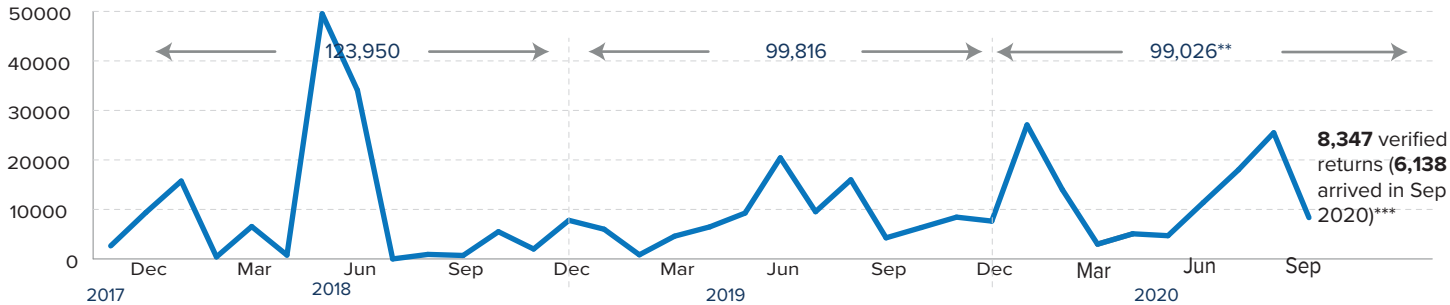
South Sudanese refugees in the region as of 30 September 2020



Spontaneous refugee returnees by Country of Asylum



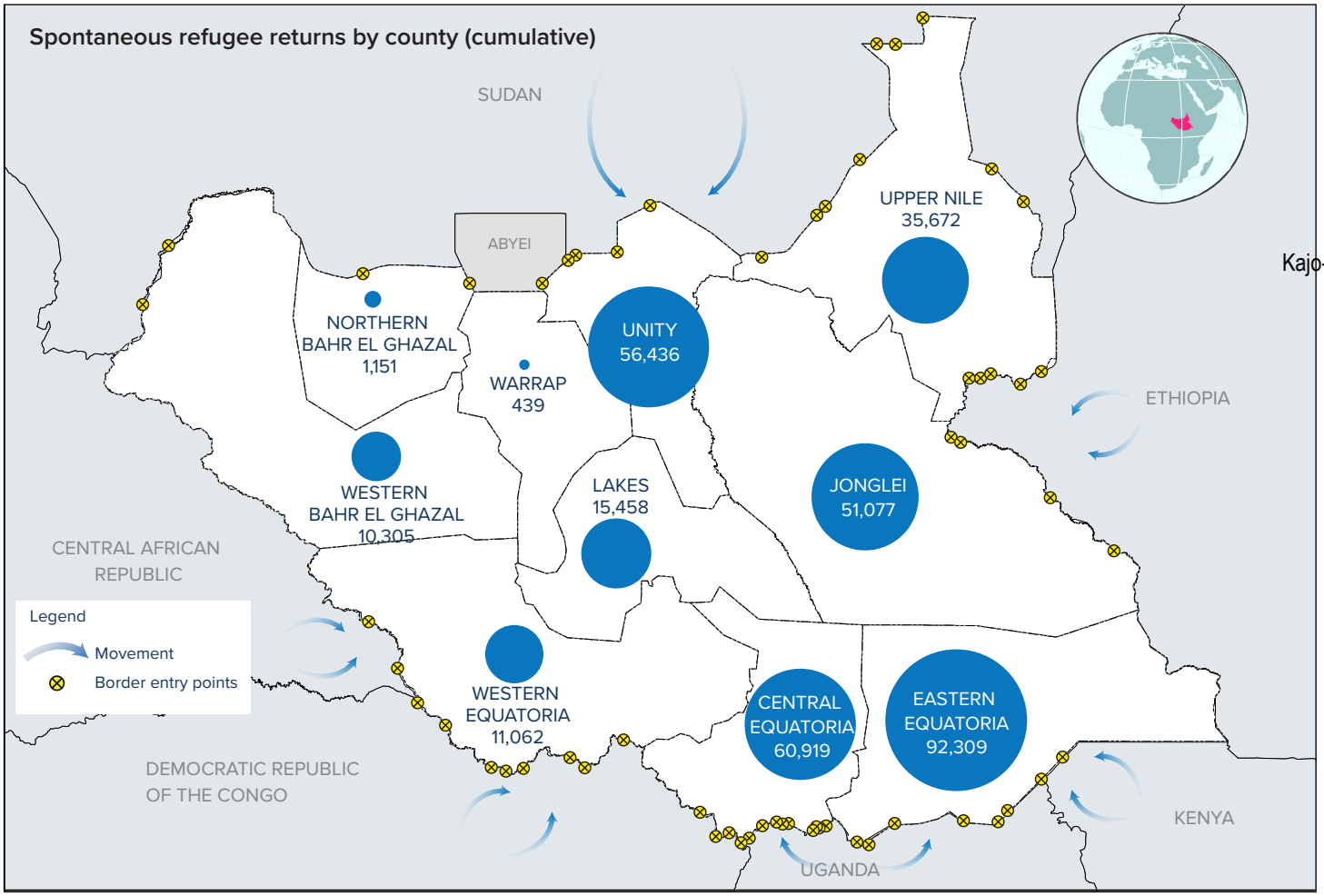
Spontaneous refugee return trend**



*** 8,347 is the overall verfied return in Sep. including those who had arrived early within the year but were verified in Sep. and out of which 6,138 returned in Sep. mainly from Uganda, Sudan and Ehtiopia to Eastern Equatorai (Magwi county), Unity (mainly Rubkona county) and Upper Nile (manily Maiwut county)

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

Spontaneous refugee returns by county (cumulative)



Kajo-Keji

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 the Abyei area is not yet determined

Source: Geographic data: UNHCR, UNCS, UNDP. Returnee statistics: UNHCR and partners

Feedback: ssdjuim@unhcr.org

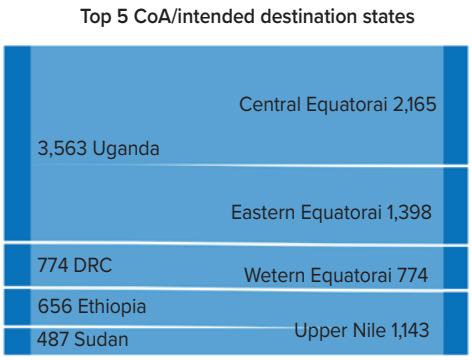
Overview of spontaneous refugee returns

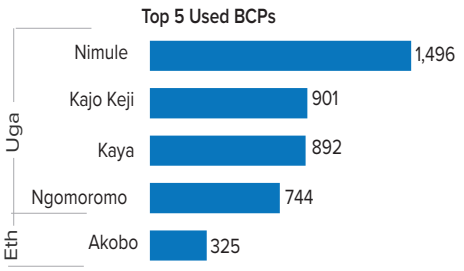
(as of September 2020)

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

Key highlights on refugees' returns and cross border movements

i. 6,138 spontaneous refugee returnees arrived during the month of September - which represents an increase from the 3,806 returnees reported in August 2020. The return of an additional 2,209 refugees, from earlier in the year, was also verified during the reported period. This brings the total of self-assisted refugee returns verified in September up to 8,347. These refugees left Uganda (3,023 individuals), Sudan (2,414), Ethiopia (1,221), DRC (964), CAR (609) and Kenya (116) to return, most of them, to Unity, Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria states.





ii. Reasons for return and cross border movements by the refugees are:

1) Inflows

- Lack of livelihoods opportunities in countly of asylum.
- Insecurity in Ugandan refugee camps.
- Reduced food ration in camps and need for complementary crop production, which is the main reason for pendular movements from Uganda.

2) Outflows

- Floods in return areas
- Food shortage, mainly in return areas in South Sudan's Torit (Eastern Equatoria), Jonglei and Upper Nile states.
- Insecurity in some return areas – sparking mainly movements from Kajo-Keji to Uganda.

iii. Rising COVID-19 positive cases among spontaneous refugee returnees at Nimule border point (UGA) and suspected cases in Maiwut (ETH), has led to increased anxiety amongst local communities and humanitarian actors amidst limited response capacity at the border points.

Methodology

To inform protection and humanitarian response on the needs of South Sudanese Refugees' spontaneous returnees, the South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) in coordination with UNHCR, and partners monitor cross border movements of the refugees at 37 strategic border points with neighboring countries, and conditions in return areas. By use of KOBO data collection tool, enumerators collect returnees data and submit to KOBO after triangulating the figures at the border points and in the communities in areas of return through focus group discussions, key informant interviews and meetings with traditional leaders/religious leaders, law enforcement and immigration officials. Daily protection information is collected at border points through key informant interviews and continous household assessments in areas of high returns.

Contributing Partners

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