



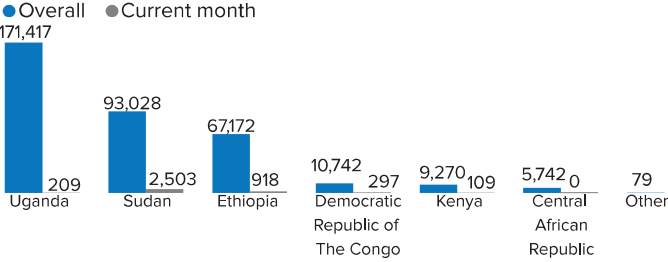
357,450

Cumulative number of reported refugee returnees since Nov 2107, of which **236,764** returned following signing the revitalized peace agreement in October 2018.

***Methodology:**

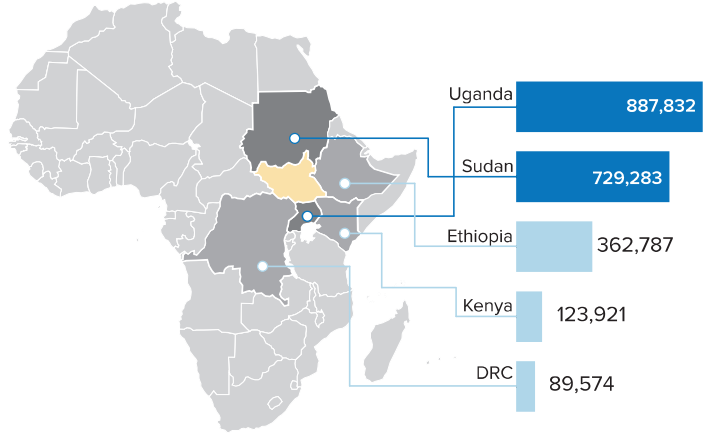
In coordination with the office of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), UNHCR and its partners triangulate received reports at community level in areas of return through focus group discussion, key informant interview as well as through meetings with traditional community leaders, religious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

Spontaneous refugee returnees by Country of Asylum

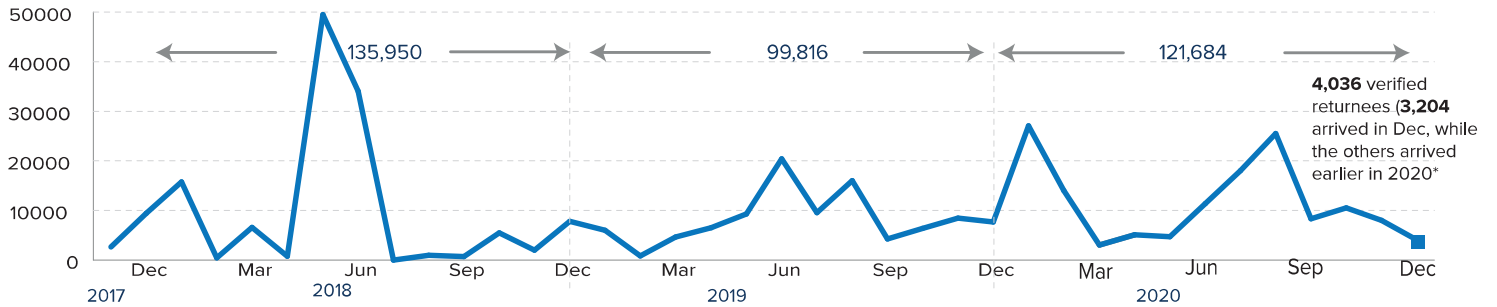


2,193,397

South Sudanese refugees in the region as of 31 December 2020

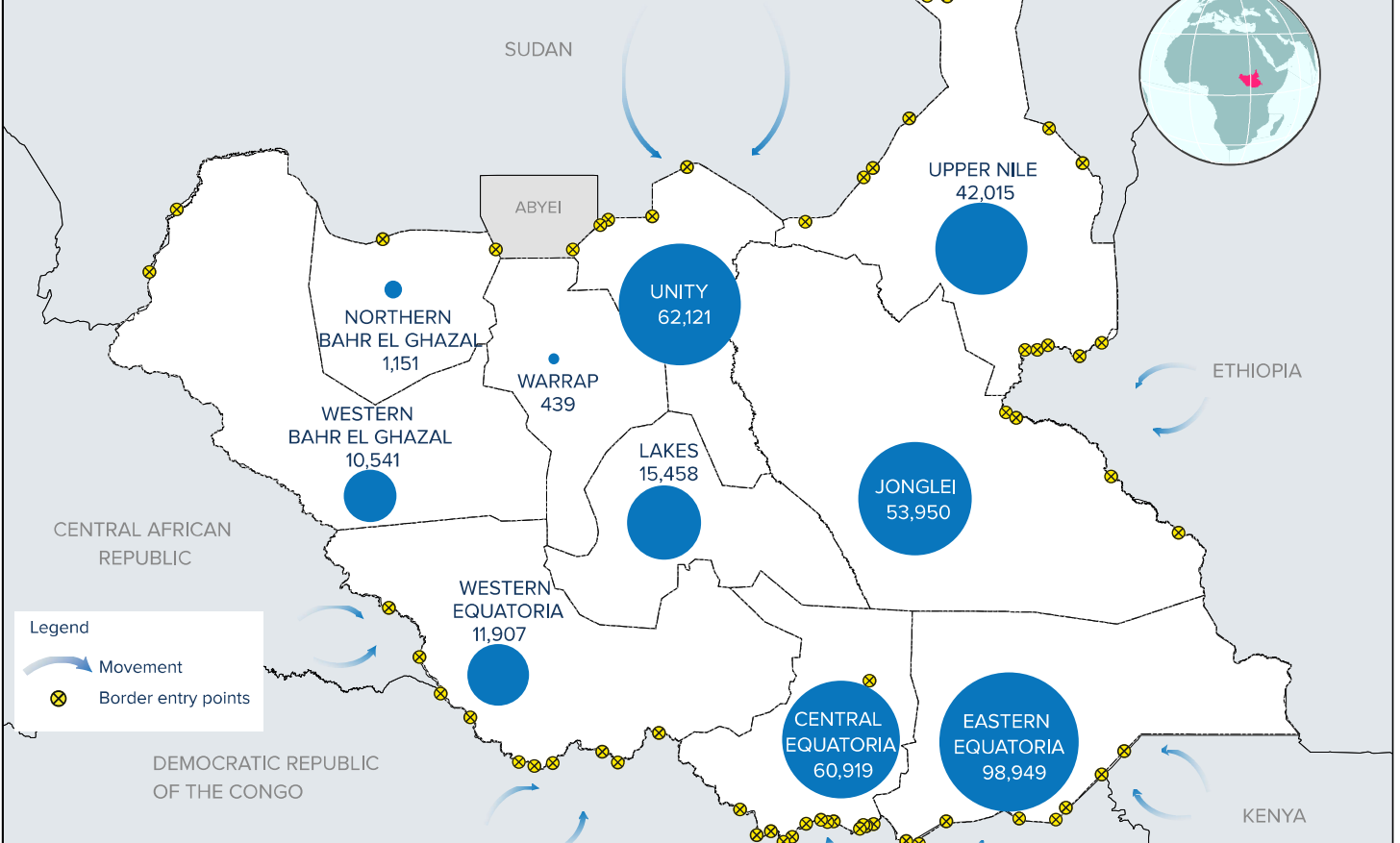


Spontaneous refugee return trend**



*4,036 is the overall verified return in Dec. including those who had arrived earlier within the year but not verified before, and out of which 4,036 returned in Dec. mainly from Sudan and Ethiopia mostly to Unit (mainly Rubkona and Koch counties), Upper Nile (mainly Maiwut county) and Jonglie (Akobo, Pibor and Pochalla counties)

Spontaneous refugee returns by state (cumulative)**



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

Key highlights on refugees' returns and cross border movements

- i. Reducing from 7,981 reported in November, 4,036 South Sudanese refugee returnees were verified in December 2020 to have returned to South Sudan from neighboring countries, including 832 persons who arrived earlier in this year but were verified in December. Additionally, 2,813 pendular movements of South Sudanese refugees were reported across border points with Uganda, pending verification in return areas.
- ii. Majority (61%) of the spontaneous refugee returnees were from Sudan while 23% returned from Ethiopia. Returnees from DRC, Uganda, and Kenya represent 15%. Most returns were to Unity States (61%), Upper Nile (16%) and Jonglei (11%).
- iii. The highest movement from October-December was reported at border points with Sudan and Ethiopia. However, the Nimule border point with Uganda is still among the highest return routes, in addition to Pantou and Elfoj with Sudan and Pagak and Shatta with Ethiopia.

- Fear of the current unrest in Ethiopia and anticipated unrest during and post-elections in Uganda
- 2) *Outflows*
- Floods in some areas especially Jongolei, Upper Nile and Unity states
 - Food shortage, mainly in Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei and Upper Nile states
 - Insecurity in Central Equatoria especially in Kajo Kejo and Lainya Counties which has led to population displacement. South Sudanese movements from Kajo-Keji
- v. The conditions at the border points and in return areas, as reported by South Sudanese refugees, are:
- Cases of extortion, arrest, and harassment by authorities at Nadapal, Nimule border points with Kenya and Uganda.
 - Fighting between SPLA-IO and SPLA-IG in Kajo Keji leading to the interruption of spontaneous refugees returnees returns.
 - Lack of shelter in host communities as they await the dry season to construct their own shelter.
 - Limited capacity by authorities to respond to COVID-19 positive cases among whom are spontaneous refugees at Nimule border point.

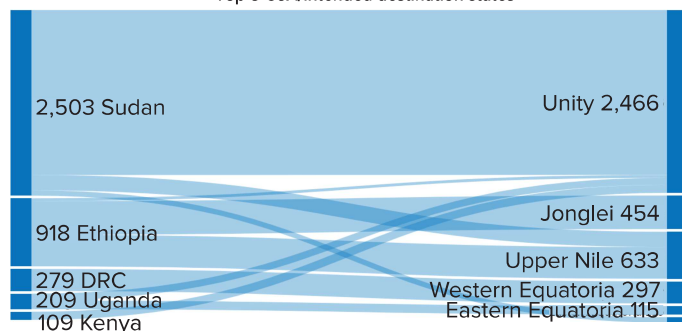
Methodology

To inform 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 conditions in return areas. Enumerators collect spontaneous returnees' data via the KOBO data collection tool. These figures are then triangulated with data collected 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.

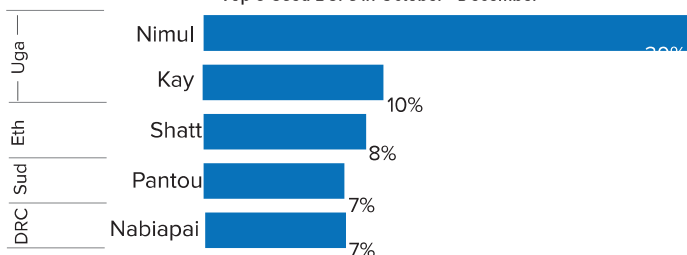
Contributing Partners

ADRA
 CARE International
 Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
 ADRA
 Hope Restoration South Sudan (HRSS),
 Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC)
 Mission to Alleviate Suffering in South Sudan

Top 5 CoA/intended destination states



Top 5 Used BCPs in October - December



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

1) Inflows

Family visits during the festive season to attend to