SOUTH SUDAN

Overview of Spontaneous Refugee Returns

AS OF AUGUST 2022

3,142

South Sudanese refugee returnees have been reported in August 2022.

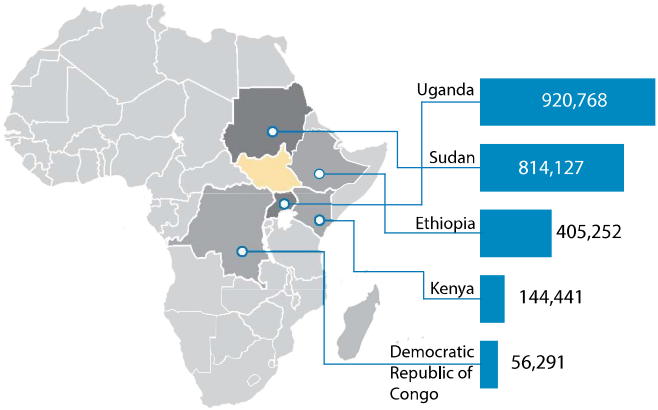
An accumulated number of 600,247 refugee returnees have been reported since the signing of the revitalized peace agreement in October 2018 to date.

2.3 Million refugees

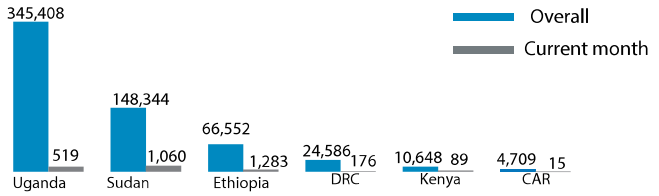
South Sudanese Refugees in the region as of 31 August 2022

UNHCR and South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) are pleased to share this monthly update on spontaneous South Sudanese refugee returnees.

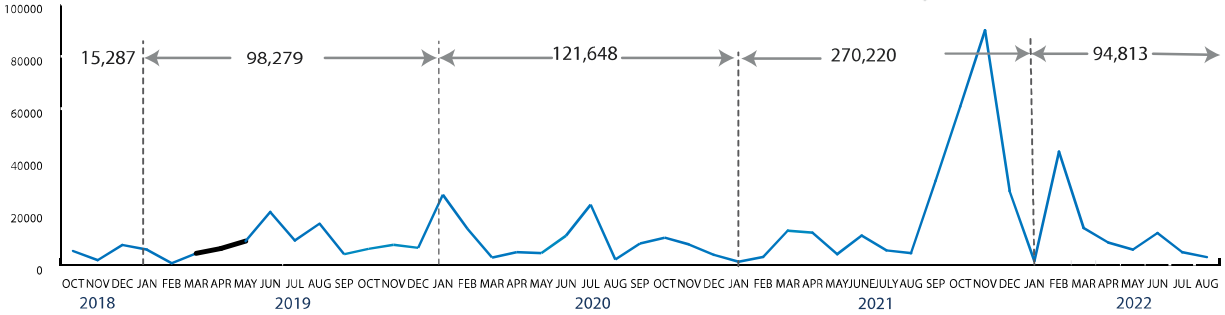
The dashboard highlights cross-border refugee movements between neighboring countries and South Sudan during the month of August 2022.

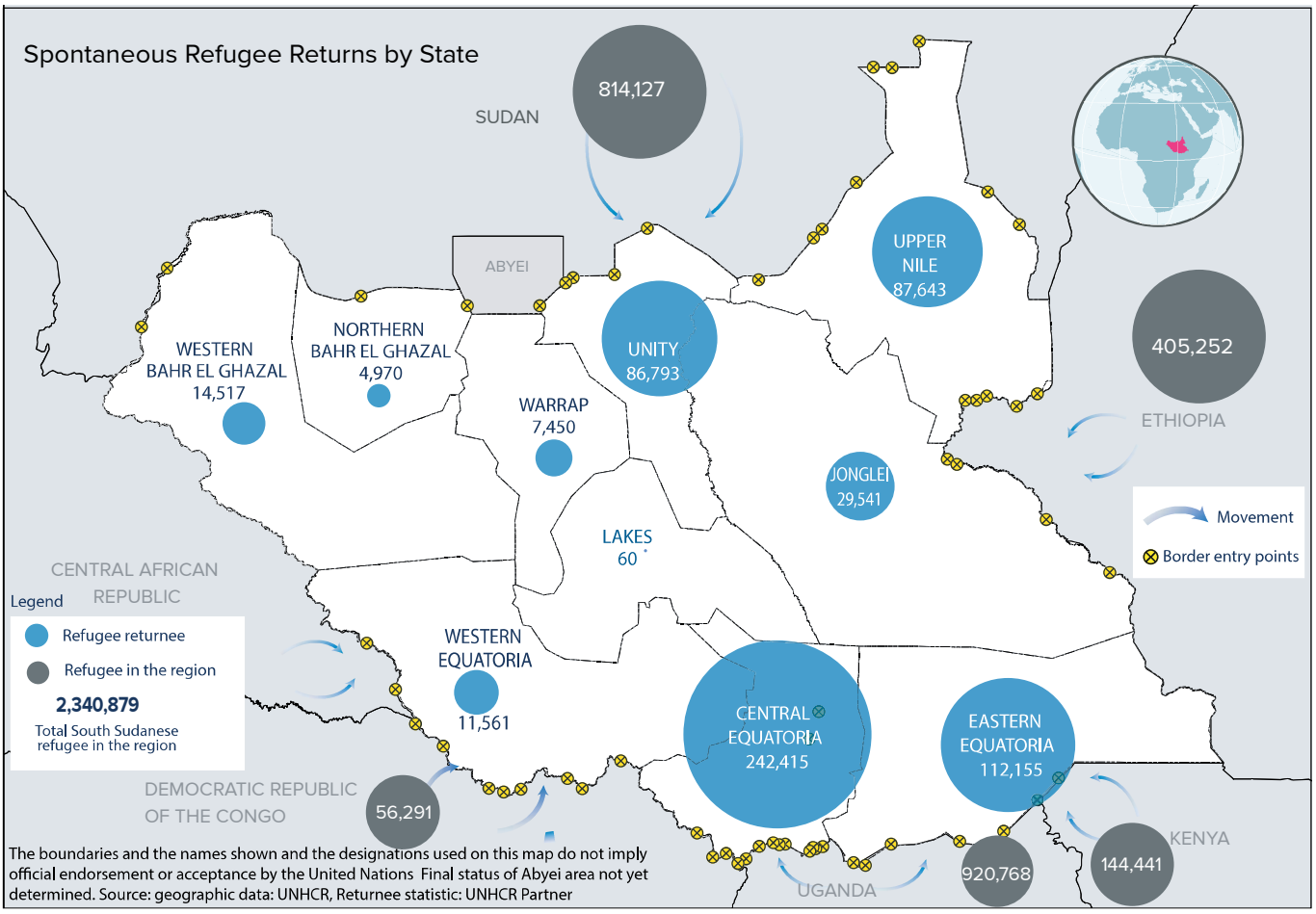


Spontaneous refugee returnees by Country of Asylum



Returns from Oct 2018 - July 2022





The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations Final status of Abyei area not yet determined. Source: geographic data: UNHCR, Returnee statistic: UNHCR Partner

Feedback: ssdjuodm@unhcr.org

Overview of Spontaneous Refugee Returns

AS OF AUGUST 2022

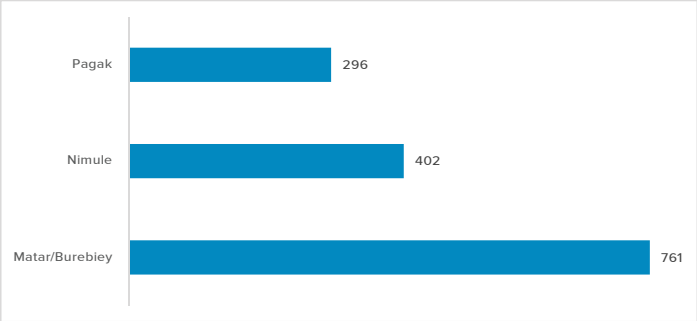
Key highlights on refugee returns and cross border movements

Return of 3,142 South Sudanese refugees have been verified and reported in the month of Aug 2022. This is a sharp decline as compared to the returns in the month of July 2022. The sharp decline was attributed to;

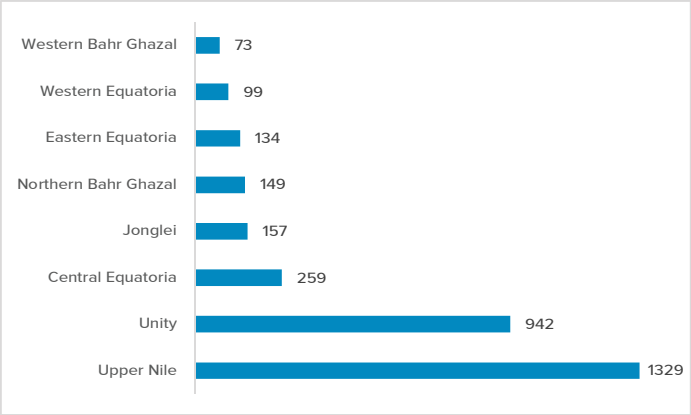
I- Bad roads across different border points due to heavy rain and floods.
II- Flood/rain that has disrupted access to some regions of South Sudan.
III-High transportation cost as a result inflated fuel cost.
IV-Closure of some border point in Upper Nile and Abyei due to conflicts.
V-Insecurity due to inter-communal violence and clashes between opposition forces and government

Information on returnees was collected in 118 Focus Group Discussions and 40 key informant interviews conducted during month of August in areas of return in the following 8 states of Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Unity, Upper Nile, Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Western Bahr el Ghazal States. Most of the verified returnees to the eight States were mostly from Ethiopia (41%), Sudan (34%), Uganda (17%) and less than 10% are from DRC Congo, Kenya and CAR. The majority of the returnees from Ethiopia went to Upper Nile State and Jonglei State while those from

Top 3 border entry point August



Return per States for the month of August 2022



Most of the returns for the August 2022 were from Ethiopia through Matar/Burebiey border crossing point of South Sudan while those from Uganda crossed through Nimule border point of Eastern Equatoria State with Uganda.

Reason for returning to South Sudan

The most cited reasons for returning to South Sudan from Country of Asylum included:-
I- Reuniting with the family members (17%).
II- Improvement of security situations in South Sudan(16%).
III-Improved availability of service in South Sudan (5%).

Reason for leaving country of asylum

I- Lack of employment and livelihood opportunities (34%).
II- Insecurity in the country of asylum (17%).
III-Lack of access to basic services (6%).

Key protection concerns at border points and in areas of return (as reported by returned refugees) are:

I- Lack of teachers and health professionals in the Education and health sector
II- Shortage of food en route and in area of returns.
III- Lack of support in form of NFIs and shelter material to returnees
IV- Inter- communal conflicts among the communities in various parts of the country challenging livelihood and re-integration returnees.

Methodology

The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) in coordination with UNHCR and partners monitor cross-border movements at 42 border entry points and in areas of high return. Information is collected through interviews with the returnees at border point and community based/house-hold-level assessments regularly in areas of high return. This information is then triangulated with data collected from focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and meetings with local authorities and faith-based leaders, law enforcement agents, and immigration officers in the border entry points and areas of returns.

Contributing partners

With support from