From November 2017 to June 2019, UNHCR estimates some 180,000 South Sudanese refugees have returned to South Sudan. To learn more about the challenges they face and their plans for the future, UNHCR conducts an in-depth, household-level survey of returnees across the country bi-monthly. Data for this assessment was collected from April to May 2019, during which 1,252 households (6,706 individuals) were interviewed in Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Northern Barh el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Western Equatoria.

**THE RETURNEES**

**Sample size**

- 6,706 individuals
- 1,252 households

**Demographics**

- 69% female-headed households
- 2% child-headed households

**Age**

- 0-4: 10% Male, 10% Female
- 5-11: 13% Male, 12% Female
- 12-17: 10% Male, 10% Female
- 18-59: 12% Male, 54% Female
- 60+: 1% Male, 3% Female

**Arrivals by County**

- Sudan: 3,899
- Unity: 4,388
- Eastern Equatoria: 1,427
- Uganda: 1,095
- Democratic Republic of Congo: 742
- *Other: Kenya, Ethiopia, Central African Republic etc.*
- **Other: Jonglei, Central Equatoria etc.**

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Final status of Abyei area is not yet determined.

Source: Geographic data: UNHCR, UNCS, UNDP.

Feedback: Sagun Ratna Tuladhar, Associate Operations Data Management Officer, tuladhar@unhcr.org

Refugee Returnee statistics: UNHCR and Partners.

Author: UNHCR Representation Office in South Sudan.
SOUTH SUDAN
Refugee returnee household survey
April-May 2019

THE JOURNEY

Reported reasons for return

Reported pull factors
1. Improvement of security situation in South Sudan 74%
2. Improved availability of services in South Sudan 40%
3. Reunite with family members 39%

Note: One household reported one or more reasons for their return to country of asylum

Mode of transport

51% returned by bus
23% returned by collective or private car
17% returned on foot
9% other

Other: bicycle, boda-boda, boat, airplane etc.

Vulnerability

122 children at risk
138 women at risk
61 elderly at risk
74 impaired / illness / disability

FUTURE PLANS

Intended return duration

92% permanently
3% as long as peace continues
3% unsure
2% less than 6 months

Reuniting with the family

60% of returnees left immediate family members in the country of asylum
93% said their family planned to meet them in South Sudan

Remaining immediate family members in Country of asylum
1. Sudan 4,166
2. Uganda 692
3. Democratic Republic of Congo 236
4. Other Country of asylum 126

Other Country of asylum: Kenya, Central African Republic, Ethiopia etc.

Housing in South Sudan

82% of returnees own house
34% of those, do not have access to it

Top 3 reasons for no access
1. Destroyed
2. Damaged
3. Occupied by others

Land in the South Sudan

84% of returnees own land
14% of those, do not have access to it

Top 3 reasons for no access
1. Insecurity
2. Occupied by others
3. Other

Mode of payment

59% paid with thier own money
21% were assisted by authority in CoA
20% other

Other: assisted by South Sudanese authority, paid by relatives, friends, no cost etc.

Top 5 reported protection incidents during travel

1. Extortion of money 626
2. Loss/theft of belongings 565
3. Medical emergencies 66
4. Consification of refugee card and/or ration card 43
5. Arrest or detention 24

Other: bicycle, boda-boda, boat, airplane etc.

Reported push factors

1. Insufficient livelihood opportunities in country of asylum 85%
2. Insufficient access to basic services in country of asylum 75%
3. Insecurity in country of asylum 38%

Mode of payment

81% want to remain in the same village
12% want to move to another country
7% other

Other: move to other village, move to other state etc.

Immediate family members return plan

283 within a month
1,821 between 1 to 2 months
1,559 between 3 to 6 months
1,333 later than 6 months

Relationship with host community

96% feel safe in the current location
94% report a good relationship with the host community

Permanent returnee’s intention

92% permanently
3% as long as peace continues
3% unsure
2% less than 6 months

Other: move to other village, move to other state etc.

Other Country of asylum: Kenya, Central African Republic, Ethiopia etc.

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