

Context

UNHCR South Sudan is pleased to share the main findings from the quarterly household survey on spontaneous refugee returns from neighboring countries from April-June 2020.

By June 2020, over 300,000 South Sudanese refugees were estimated to have returned to South Sudan from Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, CAR and DR Congo since November 2017, 180,387 of who followed the signing of revitalized peace agreement in October 2018. Over 38,308 of the returns were after COVID-19 outbreak in April 2020.

Household survey methodology

To learn more about their return conditions and future plans for the refugee returnees in return areas, UNHCR and partners conduct quarterly in-depth household-level surveys with returnees across the country.

Information is collected through key informant interviews and partner monitoring reports. Jointly with Government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, UNHCR validates the reports by interviewing randomly selected returnee households in areas of return during the period.

In total, 3,019 households (18,837 individuals) were assessed in high return areas of Eastern and Central Equatoria, Unity, Greater Bahr El Ghazal, Jonglei, Upper Nile.

Main findings

- Top assessed returns were from Uganda (13,529), followed by Sudan (2,820) and DRC (1,493). 58% of them were female headed households.
- Majority (65%) of assessed refugee returnees traveled by collective (pooled) or private cars, while a considerable 13% traveled on foot across the border mainly from Sudan and Ethiopia.
- Most of the returnees paid their transport fares by own means, while some were supported by relatives.
- Up to 69% of surveyed refugee returnees said they intended to stay permanently.
- Majority (82%) of assessed refugee returnees intended to remain in their return villages, 8% were undecided and 5% expressed desire to move to a different village within South Sudan.
- Overwhelming (98%) of the surveyed refugee returnees said they feel safe in their current location, 92% of those cited good relationship with their host communities.
- About 77% of assessed households reported owning a house and/or land in South Sudan, although 11% do not have access to house for various reasons including damages and occupied by others.

Main reasons for returns

- 1. Unemployment and livelihood opportunities in country of asylum (61%)
- 2. Improvement of security situation in South Sudan (40%)
- 3. Insufficient access to basic services in country of asylum (34%)
- 4. To reunite with family members (32%)

Key Protection concerns

- 1. Extortion by border officials to grant access to returns crossing borders, with 824 cases reported.
- 2. Confiscation of refugee documentation, especially from Uganda border crossing points
- 3. Medical emergencies during the journey due to bad weather and long distance for those returning by foot
- 4. Loss of property along the route to South Sudan.

Contributing Partners:

www.unhcr.org

RRC Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, Government of South

Sudan

ADRA Adventist Development and Relief Agency
HDC Humanitarian Development Consortium
SSOPO South Sudan Older People's Organization

CARE CARE International
DRC Danish Refugee Council
HRSS Hope Restoration South Sudan
UMCOR United Methodist Committee on Relief
WDG Women Development Group



Refugee returnee household survey

Apr-Jun 2020

From November 2017 to June 2020, UNHCR estimates some 301,033 South Sudanese refugees have returned to South Sudan, 180,347 since October 2018 after signing of revitalized peace agreement. 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.

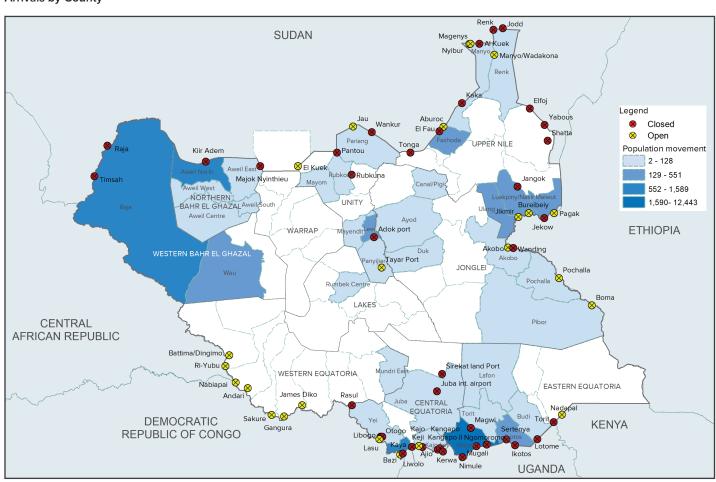
UNHCR and partners, on quarterly basis collect information on refugee returns through key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and partner monitoring reports. Jointly with Government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, UNHCR validates the reports by interviewing randomly selected returnee households in areas of return during the period.

3,019 households out of 5,105 households that arrived from April to June 2020 were interviewed, mainly from Eastern Equatoria.

THE RETURNEES (21,153 refugees returned spontaneously between Apr-Jun 2020)

Assessed households Movement flow from countries hosting South Sudanese refugees to various states in South Sudan 18,837 3,019 Central Equatoria, 1,678 households individuals **Demographics** 1.5% Uganda, 13,529 female-headed child-headed Eastern Equatorai, 12,887 households households Female Age Male 5-11 Sudan, 2,820 Jonglei, 288 12-17 49% 51% Unity, 618 Upper Nile, 1,277 DRC, 1,493 Western Bahr el Gazal 1,104 Ethiopia, 902 Kenya, 93 60+ Northern Bahr el Gazal, 972

Arrivals by County



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



Refugee returnee household survey

Apr-Jun 2020

THE JOURNEY

Reported reasons for return

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

Reported push factors*

- 1 Lack of employment and livelihoods oppertunities in country of asylum
- 2 Insufficient access to basic services in country of asylum (34%)
- 3 Insecurity in country of asylum (6%)

Reported pull factors**

- 1 Improvement of security situation in South Sudan (40%)
- 2 Reunite with family members (32%)
- 3 Improved availability of services in South Sudan (14%)

**Factors that attract refugees to return to South Sudan from countries of asylum

Mode of transport



returned by collective or private car

16% returned by other means

13% returned on foot

6% by bus, boat and

Other: Motor bike, bicycle, animal riding, etc

Vulnerable individuals identified



178 Chronic illness

137 Physical disability

124 Older person unable to care for self

68 Visual impairment risk

airplane

61

Child at

Mode of payment



85% paid with thier own money

15% other

Other: assisted by country of asylum, paid by relatives, friends, no cost etc.

Top 5 reported protection incidents during travel



Exploitation (corruption, extortion), 824

Loss/theft of belongings, 417

Confiscation of refugee card and/or ration card, 122

Other, 95

Medical Emergency, 63 Other: detention at the border, road insecure and rain.

FUTURE PLANS

Intended return duration

82%



permanently unsure

6% as long as peace continues

4% 1% 1-6 Months

more than 6 months

Permanent returnee's intention



69% 11% want to remain Undecided in the same or do not village

want to move to another

9%

8% 3% Other Move to another

Other: move to other county and leave south sudan

Reuniting with the family



38%*

said their family planned to meet them in South Sudan

*38% of total assessed individuals (79% of those who left immediate family members in the country of asylum)



48%

of returnees left immediate family members in the country of asylum

Immediate family members return plan



530 later than 6 months

Relationship with host community

286 between

205

115

between 1 to 2 less than 3 to 6 months months a month

Remaining immediate family members in Country of asylum

Uganda

Sudan

Ethiopia 4 Kenya **5** DRC

2.573 2,606 243 50 2

98% feel safe in the current location



92% report a good relationship with the

Housing in South Sudan



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

Top 3 reasons for no access

Destroyed 2 Damaged

Occupied by others

Land in South Sudan



96%

10% of returnees of those, do not own land have access to it

Top 3 reasons for no access

host community

1 Insecurity

Occupied by others Other

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Other: from another payam, unable to repair, flood/rain, etc

^{*}Factors/conditions that push refugees back to South Sudan from countries of asylum