

## 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:

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

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.

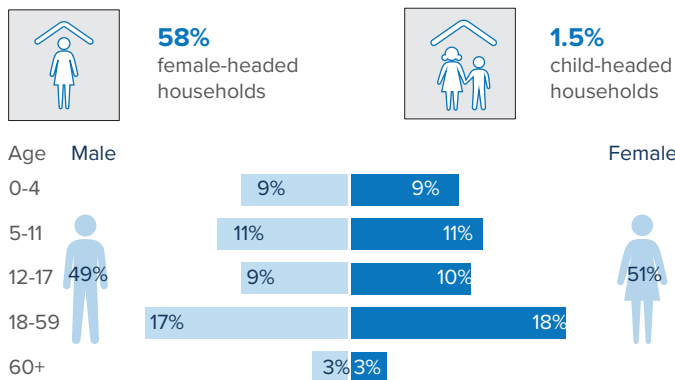
3,019 households out of 5,105 households that arrived from April to June 2020 were interviewed, mainly from Eastern Equatoria.

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

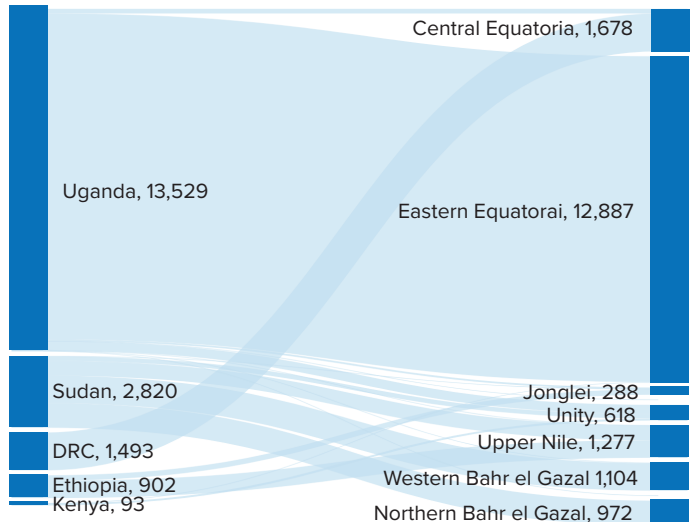
### Assessed households



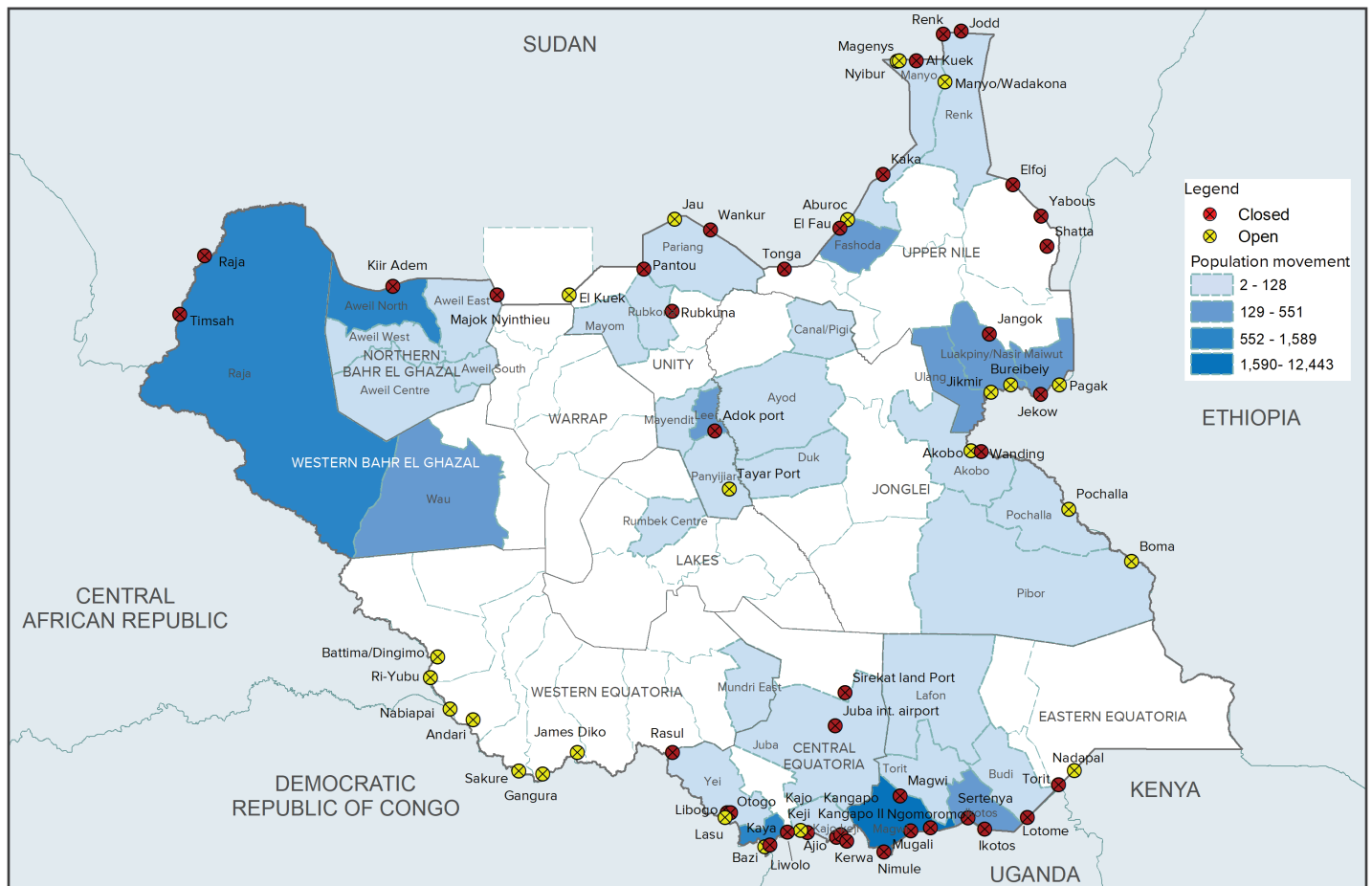
### Demographics



### Movement flow from countries hosting South Sudanese refugees to various states in South Sudan



### 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.

Final status of Abyei area is not yet determined.

Author: UNHCR Representation Office in South Sudan.

Source: Geographic data: UNHCR, UNCS, UNDP.

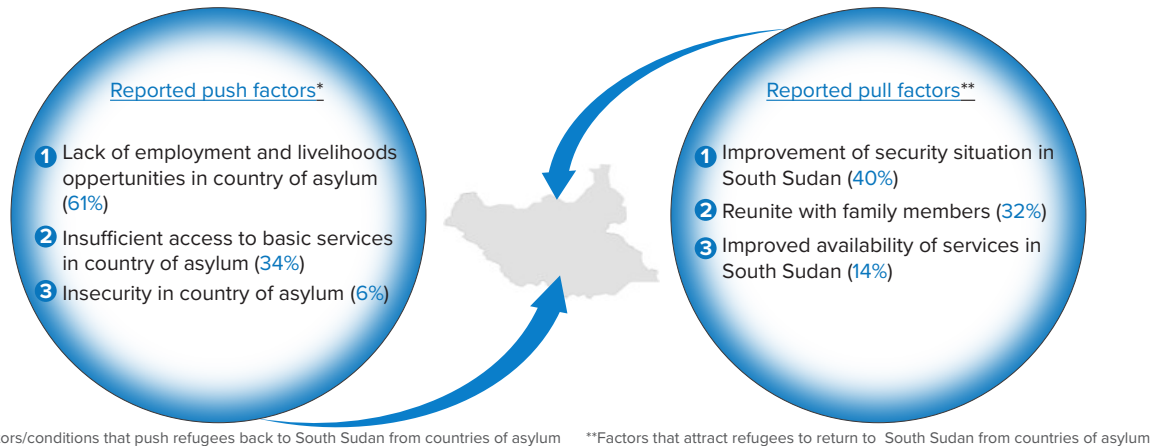
Feedback: [ssdjuimo@unhcr.org](mailto:ssdjuimo@unhcr.org)

Refugee Returnee statistics: UNHCR and Partners.

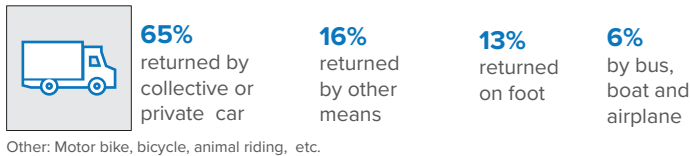
## THE JOURNEY

### Reported reasons for return

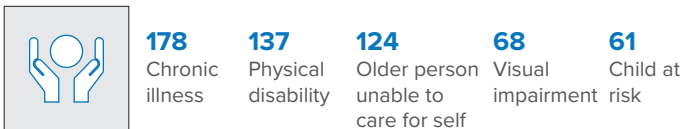
Note: One household reported one or more reasons for their return to country of asylum



### Mode of transport

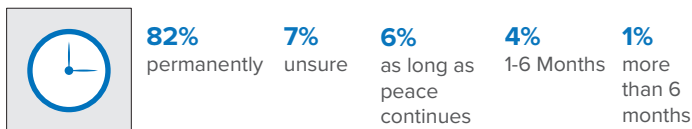


### Vulnerable individuals identified

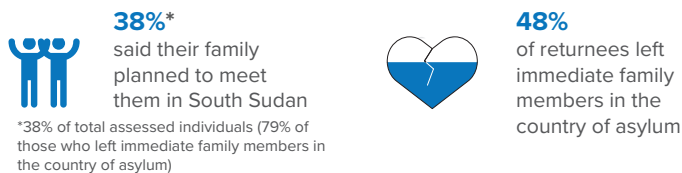


## FUTURE PLANS

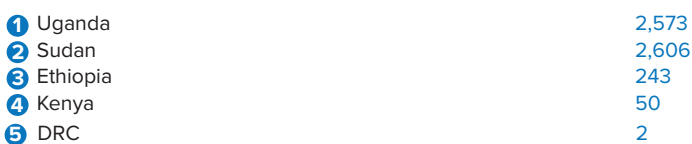
### Intended return duration



### Reuniting with the family



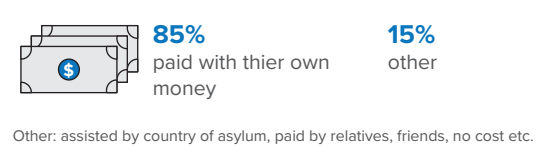
### Remaining immediate family members in Country of asylum



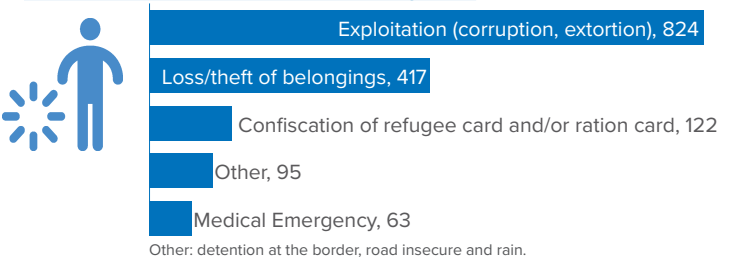
### Housing in South Sudan



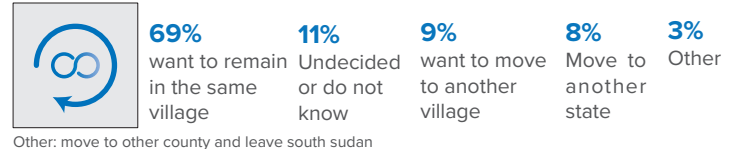
### Mode of payment



### Top 5 reported protection incidents during travel



### Permanent returnee's intention



### Immediate family members return plan



### Relationship with host community



### Land in South Sudan

