From November 2017 to June 2021, UNHCR verified that 403,555 South Sudanese refugees have returned to South Sudan, out of which 282,869 have arrived since October 2018 after signing the 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 a 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.

2093 households out of 13,246 households that arrived from April to June 2021 were interviewed from Unity, Northern/Western Bahr el Ghazal, Jonglei, Warrap, Central/Eastern/Western Equatoria and Upper Nile

**THE RETURNENES** (13,246 refugees returned spontaneously between April-June 2021)

**Sample size**

- **13,246** individuals
- **2093** households

**Demographics**

- **55%** female-headed households
- **0.4%** child-headed households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-17</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-59</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sample sources/destinations (individuals)**

**Sample size per 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.

Source: Geographic data: UNHCR, UNCS, UNDP.

Feedback: ssdjuimo@unhcr.org

Refugee Returnee statistics: UNHCR and Partners.

Author: UNHCR Representation Office in South Sudan.
THE JOURNEY

Reported reasons for return (Households)

1. Lack of employment and livelihood opportunities in CoA (34%)
2. Lack of access to basic services in CoA (16%)
3. Insecurity in country of asylum (6%)

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

Mode of transport (households)

- 67% of households returned by collective/private car
- 12% of households returned by boat
- 10% of households returned on foot
- 7% of households returned by bus

Vulnerabilities identified (cases)*

- 192 older people unable to care for themselves
- 77 children
- 51 unaccompanied children
- 54 single older people
- 305* other

*One individual can have more than one vulnerability
*Other such as teenage pregnancy, single women at risk, people with chronic illness, etc.

FUTURE PLANS

Intended return duration

- 85% of households plan to stay permanently
- 7%* of households plan to stay temporarily
- 7% of households are undecided

*Temporary stay for period between 1 and six months or as long as piece holds

Reuniting with the family

14% of households left immediate family members in the country of asylum

86%* of households said their family members planned to meet them in South Sudan

*91% of those who left immediate family members in the country of asylum

Remaining immediate family members in Country of asylum

- Sudan: 2142
- Uganda: 532
- Ethiopia: 368
- Kenya: 53
- DRC: 45
- CAR: 31

Housing in South Sudan

- 76% of returnee household own house
- 19% of households owning houses, do not have access to it

Top 3 reasons for no access

1. Destroyed
2. Damaged
3. Occupied by others

Mode of payment (Households)

- 90% of households paid with their own money
- 4% of households assisted by South Sudanese Authorities
- 6% were assisted by relatives and others

Top 5 reported protection incidents

- Exploitation (Corruption, Extortion) (480)
- Loss of belonging (309)
- Trafficking of persons (270)
- Theft of belonging (191)
- Medical emergency (120)

Permanent returnee’s intention

87% of households want to remain in the same village
5% of household are undecided/don’t want to answer
8%* of households have other plans

*Other: Move to another village in the same payam or to other county or state or leave South Sudan.

Immediate family members return plan

- 642 individuals intend to join later than 6 or more months
- 159 individuals intend to join within 3-6 months
- 192 individuals intend to join within 1-2 months
- 27 individuals intend to join in less than 1 month

Relationship with host community

- 97% of the households feel safe in the current location
- 81% of households reported good relationship with the host community

Land in the South Sudan

- 95% of returnee households own land
- 5% of returnee households do not have access

Top 3 reasons for no access

1. Occupied by other
2. Insecurity
3. Other

Other: no available space, far from town, fear of previous fatigue, loneliness etc.