

## Brief Explanation:

### Household survey methodology

From November 2017 to May 2020, UNHCR estimates some 289,560 South Sudanese refugees have spontaneously returned to South Sudan, 168,964 of them returned since signing of revitalized peace agreement in October 2018. To learn more about their return conditions and their future plans in return areas, UNHCR conducts 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.

### *Findings of periodic household-level Survey (January 2020 – March 2020) of South Sudanese refugees returned spontaneously or in self-organized manner to South Sudan*

UNHCR, in coordination with South Sudan's Commission for Relief and Rehabilitation and NGO partners, conducted a household survey of spontaneous refugee returnees who arrived between January and March 2020. In total, 1,621 households (10,169 individuals) were interviewed in high-return areas of: Eastern Equatoria, Unity, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Jonglei, Upper Nile, Central Equatoria. This survey is conducted on a quarterly basis.

### Key findings include:

- The **highest number** of spontaneous refugee returnees surveyed **came from Sudan** (5,380), followed by Kenya (3,421)
- **Women and children** made up a **majority (79%)** of the population, 45% of households were Female headed households.
- More than half (58%) of the refugee returnees traveled by collective (pooled) or private cars, while 26% returned in buses, 10% returned by boat and others various means such as; bicycle, boda-boda, on foot etc.
- Most of the returnees paid by own means, their transport fares, some were supported by relatives and few returns via Panakuach border crossing were aided by Sudan authorities to cross into South Sudan at a reduced fee as public transport was restricted at the informal border crossing.
- Up to 92% of surveyed refugee returnees said they intended to stay permanently.

### Main reasons for returns were;

1. Insufficient livelihood opportunities in country of asylum
2. Improvement of security situation in South Sudan
3. Reunite with family members
4. Insufficient access to basic services in country of asylum
5. Insecurity in country of asylum

- Majority (82%) of 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 (99%) of the surveyed refugee returnees said they feel safe in their current location, 88% of those cited good relationship with their host communities.
- Most reported owning a house and/or land in South Sudan, but 8% and 7%, respectively, do not have access to house for various reasons.
- Sixty-eight percent (68%) of refugee returnees left immediate family members in the country of asylum. Majority mentioned their family members planned to join them in South Sudan within one to six months.

**Contributing Partners:**

RRC	Office of Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, Government of South Sudan
ROSS	Relief Organization for 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 May 2020, UNHCR estimates some 289,560 South Sudanese refugees have returned to South Sudan, 168,964 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.

1,621 households out of 10,338 households that arrived from January to March 2020 were interviewed, mainly from Eastern Equatoria, Unity, Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal states.

## THE RETURNEES (44,078 refugees returned spontaneously between Jan-Mar 2020)

### Sample size



**10,169**  
individuals

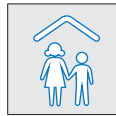


**1,621**  
households

### Demographics

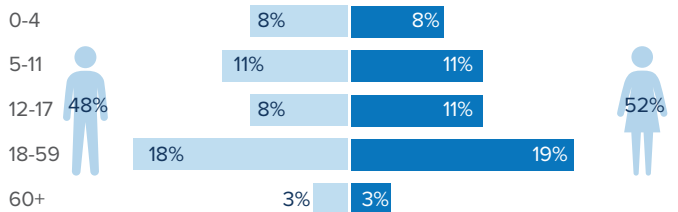


**45%**  
female-headed  
households

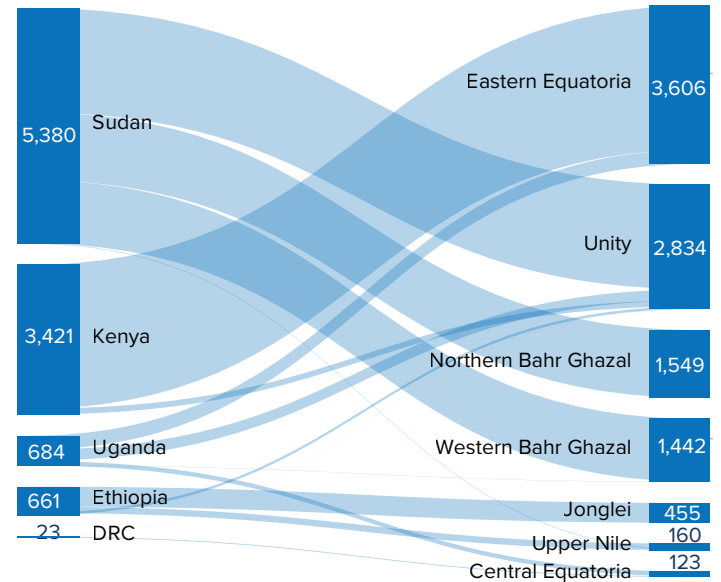


**2%**  
child-headed  
households

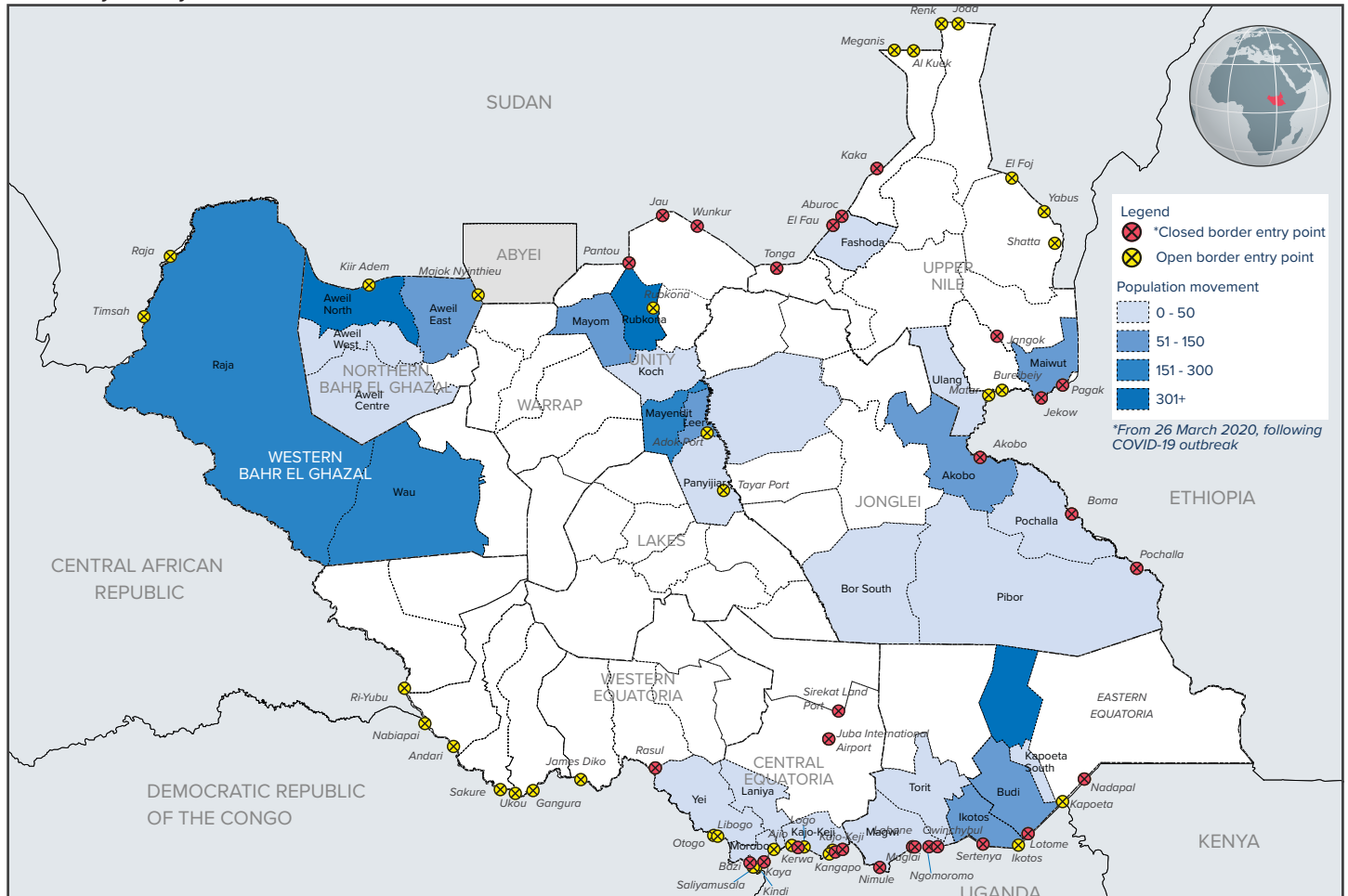
Age Male



### Movement flow



### 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.

Source: Geographic data: UNHCR, UNCS, UNDP.

Author: UNHCR Representation Office in South Sudan.

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

Refugee Returnee statistics: UNHCR and Partners.

## THE JOURNEY

### Reported reasons for return

#### Reported pull factors

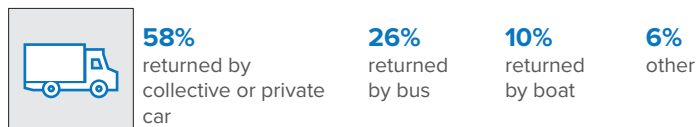
- 1 Improvement of security situation in South Sudan 49%
- 2 Reunite with family members 41%
- 3 Improved availability of services in South Sudan 11%

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

#### Reported push factors

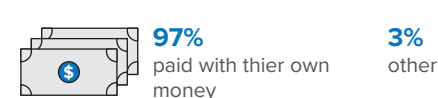
- 1 Insufficient livelihood opportunities in country of asylum 57%
- 2 Insufficient access to basic services in country of asylum 41%
- 3 Insecurity in country of asylum 12%

### Mode of transport



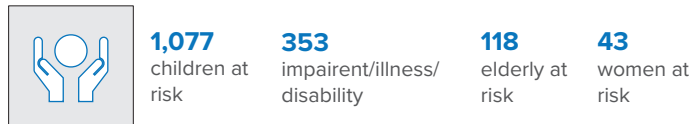
Other: on foot, bicycle, boda-boda, boat, airplane etc.

### Mode of payment



Other: assisted by CoA, paid by relatives, friends, no cost etc.

### Vulnerability

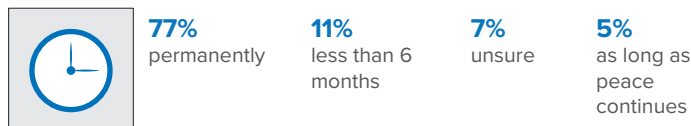


#### Top 5 reported protection incidents during travel

- | Incident   | No of times |
|--|-------------|
| 1 Extortion of money                                       | 408         |
| 2 Loss/theft of belongings                                 | 338         |
| 3 Confiscation of refugee card and/or ration card (Uganda) | 134         |
| 4 Medical emergency  | 95          |
| 5 Psychological/emotional abuse                            | 25          |

## FUTURE PLANS

### Intended return duration



### Permanent returnee's intention



Other: move to other county, do not know, move to other state etc.

### Reuniting with the family



### Immediate family members return plan



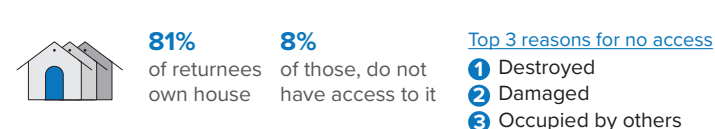
#### Remaining immediate family members in Country of asylum

- | Country    | Count |
|------------|-------|
| 1 Sudan    | 3,895 |
| 2 Kenya    | 890   |
| 3 Uganda   | 212   |
| 4 Ethiopia | 133   |

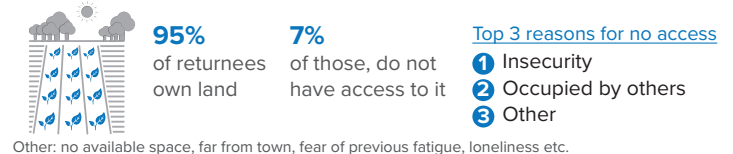
### Relationship with host community



### Housing in South Sudan



### Land in the South Sudan



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