



364,000

Cumulative number of reported refugee returnees since Nov 2017, of which 241,390 have returned following the signing of the revitalized peace agreement in October 2018.



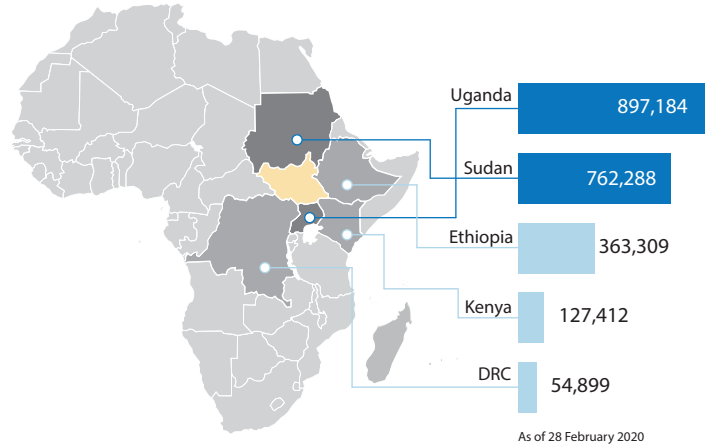
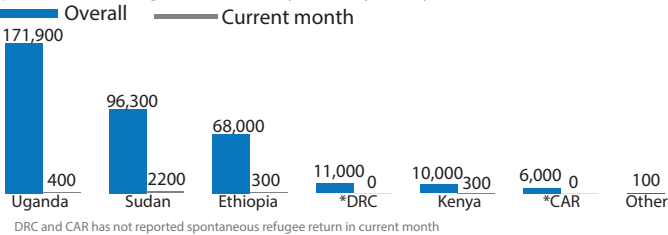
2,182,903

From South Sudan in the region
as of 28 February 2021

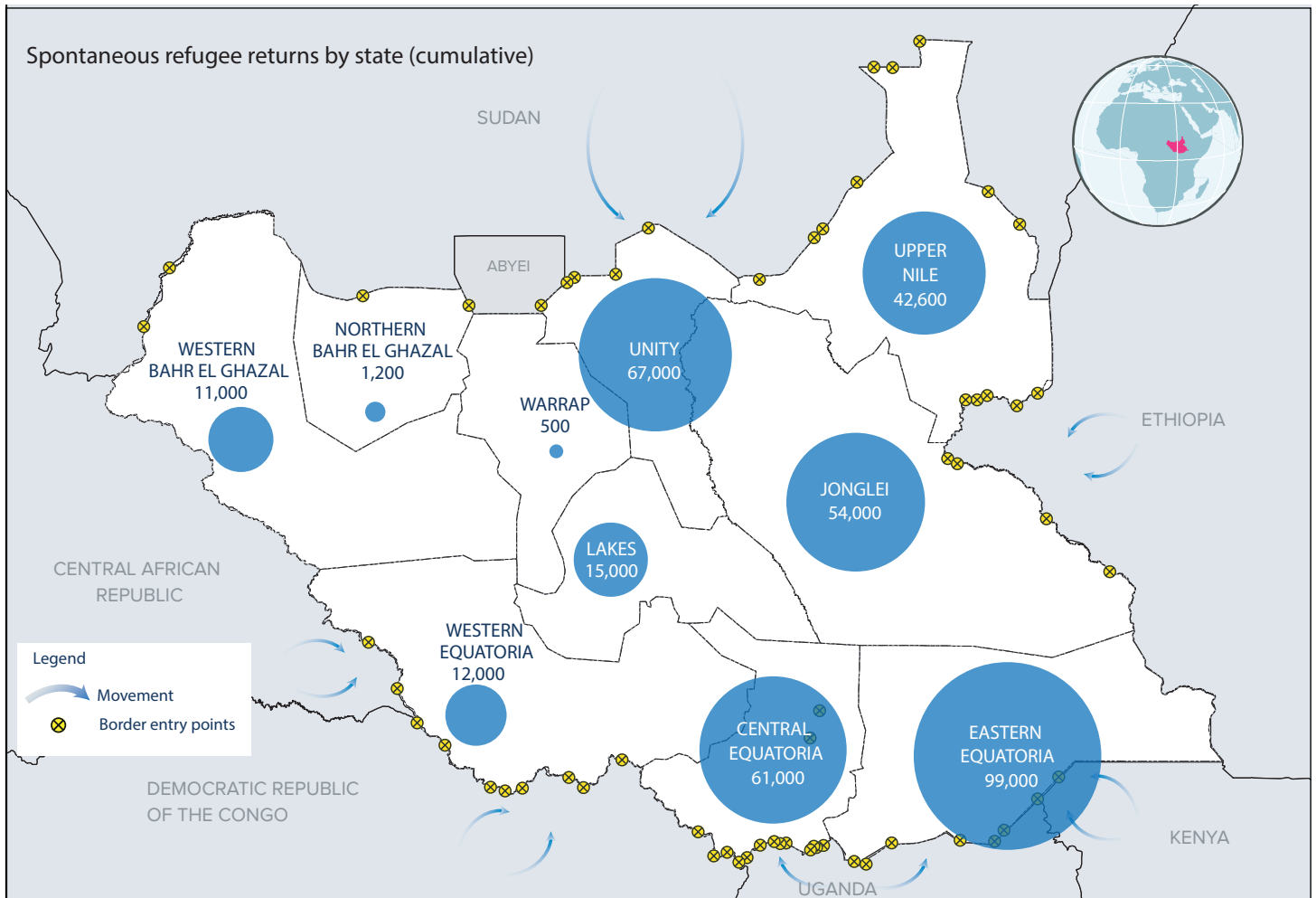
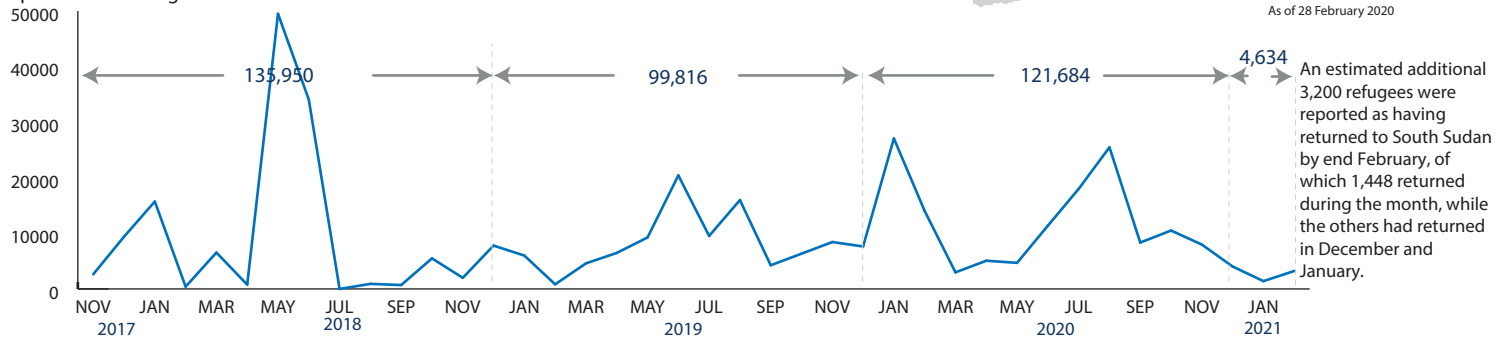
UNHCR and South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) are pleased to share this monthly update on spontaneous South Sudanese refugee returns.

The dashboard highlights cross border refugee movements between neighbouring countries and South Sudan during February 2021.

Spontaneous refugee returnees by Country of Asylum

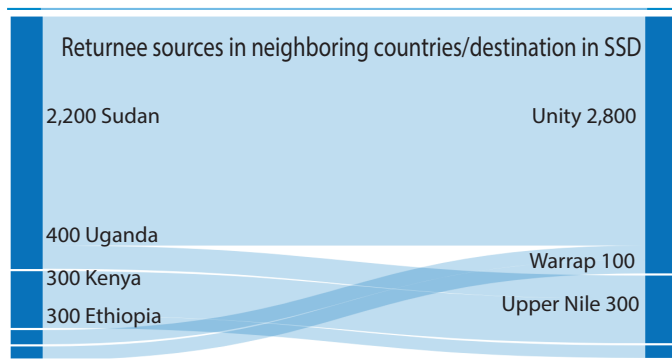


Spontaneous refugee return trend



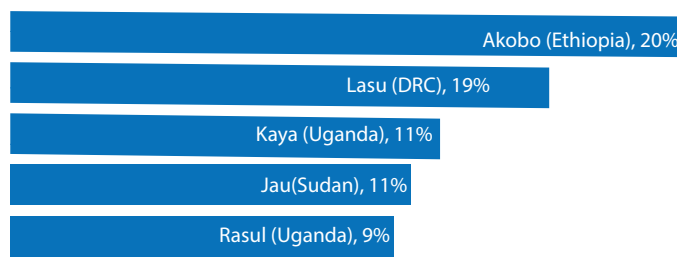
Key highlights on refugees' returns and cross border movements

- i. A slight increase from South refugee returns reported in January 2021 to 3,200 individuals were verified across the Country in February 2021.
- ii. Majority, 68% of the verified and reported returns in February where from Sudan while 12% returned from Uganda and 10% from Ethiopia to Unity States, Jonglei, Bhar el Ghazal and Upper Nile.
Returns to Equatorial and other States across South Sudan are expected to be updated in March, upon verification by monitoring partners.



- iii. At border crossing points, some 2 480 South Sudanese refugees including spontaneous return and pendular movements were observed to have crossed to South Sudan through Pantou crossing point with Sudan, Akobo (Ethiopia), Kaya (Uganda), Lasu (DRC) and Jau (Sudan).

Five most frequented border crossing points during period January to February 2021"



- iv. Reason for returning to South Sudan
 - Lack of employment and livelihoods opportunities
 - Reunite with family members in South Sudan
 - Improved security in return locations across South Sudan

- v. Reason for departing from South Sudan
 - Search for services; Education, Medical reasons and Food assistance .
 - Visit family members in the camps.

- vi. The conditions at the border points and in return areas, as reported by South Sudanese refugees, are:

- Extortion of money from refugee returnees and detention and harassment reported at Nadapal border crossing by Kenyan security forces, Nimule by Ugandan border police and Immigration officials.
- Continued armed conflict in Kajo-keji which hindered refugee returns to habitual residences to greater Yei River County.
- Limited COVID-19 response capacity at most border crossing points to South Sudan. In Nimule border, UNHCR and Partners continue to complement government response at the testing and isolation facility in Nimule hospital.

Methodology

To inform Protection and humanitarian response and assess the needs of South Sudanese refugee returnees, the Government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) – in coordination with UNHCR and partners – monitor cross border movements at 37 strategic border points, and conditions in return areas. Enumerators collect spontaneous returnees' data via the Kobo data collection tool. These figures are then triangulated with data collected from focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and meetings with local leaders and religious leaders, law enforcement and immigration officials in the area of returns. Regular protection information is collected at border points through key informant interviews and continuous household assessments in areas of high returns.

Contributing Partners



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