



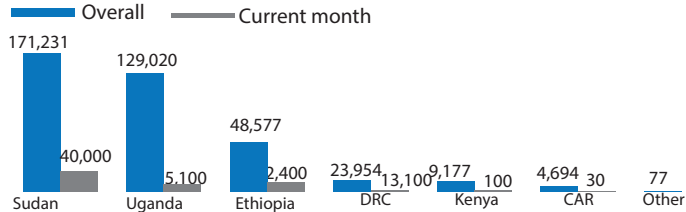
60,730

South Sudanese refugee returnees has been reported in October 2021. A cumulative number of **387,000** refugee returnees have been reported since the signing of the revitalized peace agreement in October 2018.

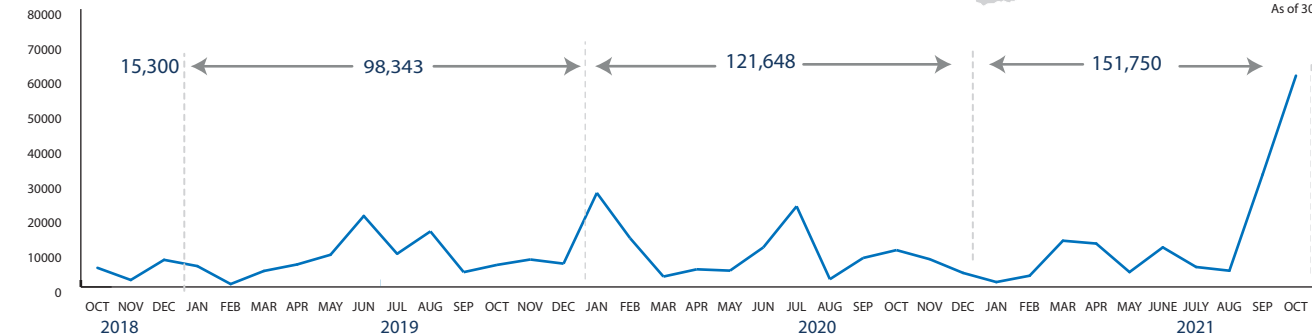
UNHCR and South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) are pleased to share this monthly update on spontaneous South Sudanese refugee returnees.

The dashboard highlights cross-border refugee movements between Neighboring countries and South Sudan during October 2021.

Spontaneous refugee returnees by Country of Asylum



Returns from 2018 - 2021

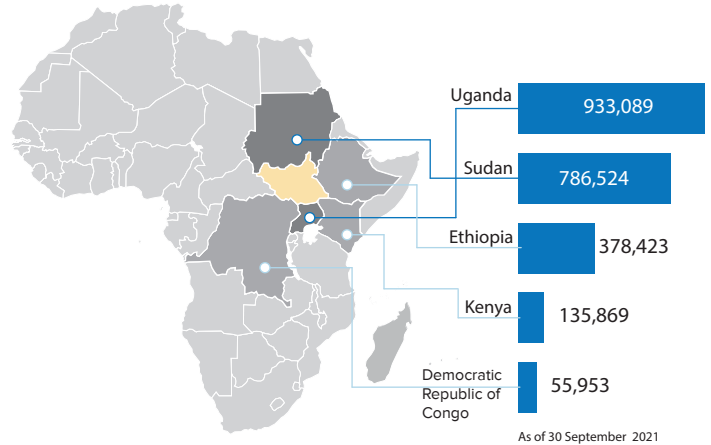


An estimated 151,750 refugees were reported as having returned to South Sudan in 2021 of which 60,820 have returned in October alone.

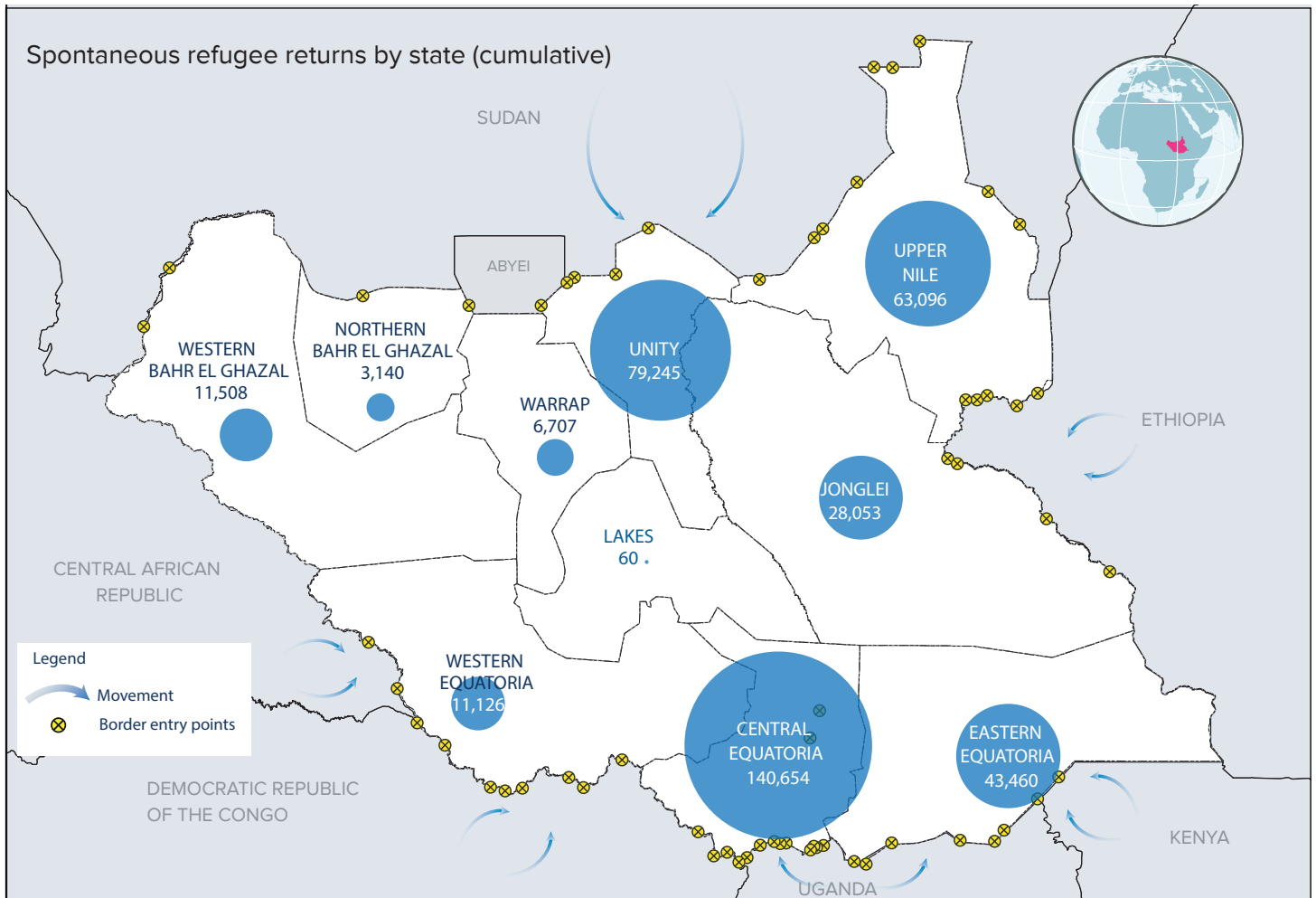


2.2 Million refugees

South Sudanese Refugees in the region as of 30 September 2021



Spontaneous refugee returns by state (cumulative)



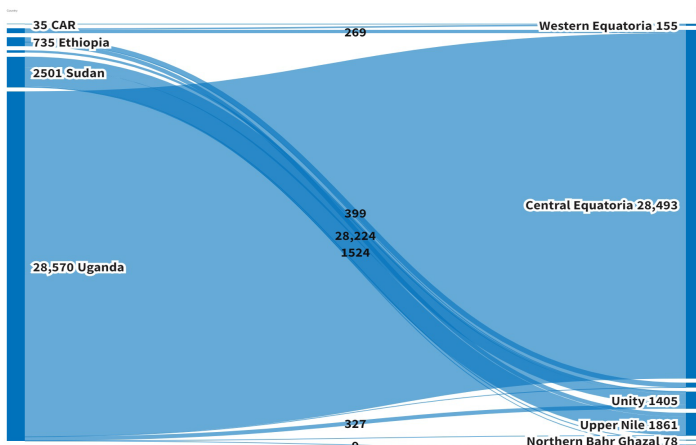
Key highlights on refugee returns and cross border movements

Return of 60,730 South Sudanese refugee has been reported in October 2021. This is the highest number of returnees registered in 2021. The size of return is mainly due to improvement of the security situation in Kajokeji, Morobo, and Yei area. It is also partly due to accumulated returns, that had not been verified by humanitarian partners and RRC.

Information on returnees was collected in 78 Focus Group Discussions and 61 key informant interviews conducted during October in areas of return in the following states: Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, and Western Equatoria. Most of the verified returnees to the nine States were from Uganda (66%), DRC Congo (22%), Sudan (8%), and less than 10% from CAR, Ethiopia, and Kenya. The majority of the returnees to Unity, Bahr el Ghazal, Jonglei, and the upper Nile State had come from Sudan and Ethiopia. Most of the returnees from Uganda were to Central and Eastern Equatoria, and a few others to Upper Nile State.

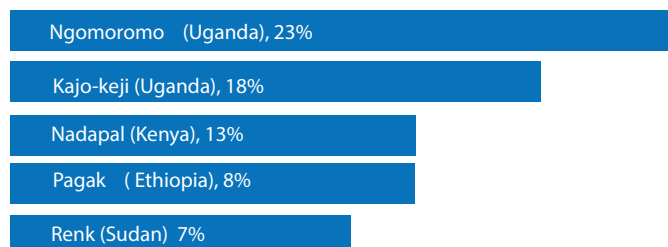
During the reporting month, border monitoring reports were received from 17 border crossing points where 1524 South Sudanese returned to SSD, from the following countries: Uganda 775, Ethiopia 313, Sudan 216, and Kenya 195 individuals.

Returnee sources in neighboring countries/destination in SSD



The most frequent border crossing points were Nimule, Ngomoro, Nadapal, Kajokeji and Akobo with Ethiopia

Five most used border crossing points during October 2021



Reason for returning to South Sudan

The most cited reasons for returning to South Sudan from Country of Asylum include reuniting with family members in South Sudan (49%), perception of improvement of security situation in South Sudan (47%), improved availability of services in South Sudan (22%) and checking on housing, land and property in South Sudan (22%).

Reason for leaving country of asylum

- Lack of employment and livelihood opportunities in the countries of asylum (55%).
- Lack of access to basic services in the country of asylum (32%).
- Insecurity in the country of Asylum especially Sudan and Ethiopia (17%).

Key protection concerns at border points and in areas of return (as reported by returned refugees) are:

- Inter-communal conflicts/violence in the areas of return.
- Lack of food, shelter materials, and NFIs in the return areas of Pochalla, and Boma in Jonglei state and also in Magwi County in Eastern Equatoria state.
- Lack of basic sanitary and handwashing facilities as part of Covid-19 prevention especially in Rubkona bus station in Unity State.
- Heavy rains and floods have affected crops, cattle and displaced people in most States of South Sudan.

Methodology

The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) – in coordination with UNHCR and partners – monitor cross-border movements at 37 border entry points and in areas of return. Information is collected through interviews with the returnees at border point and community based/house-hold-level assessments regularly in areas of high return. This information is 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.

Contributing partners



With support from

