



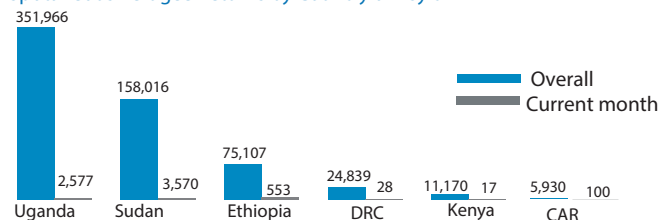
6,845 South Sudanese refugee returnees have been reported in December 2022.
 An accumulated number of **627,028** refugee returnees have been reported since the signing of the revitalized peace agreement in October 2018 to 31 December 2022

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 neighboring countries and South Sudan during the month of December 2022.

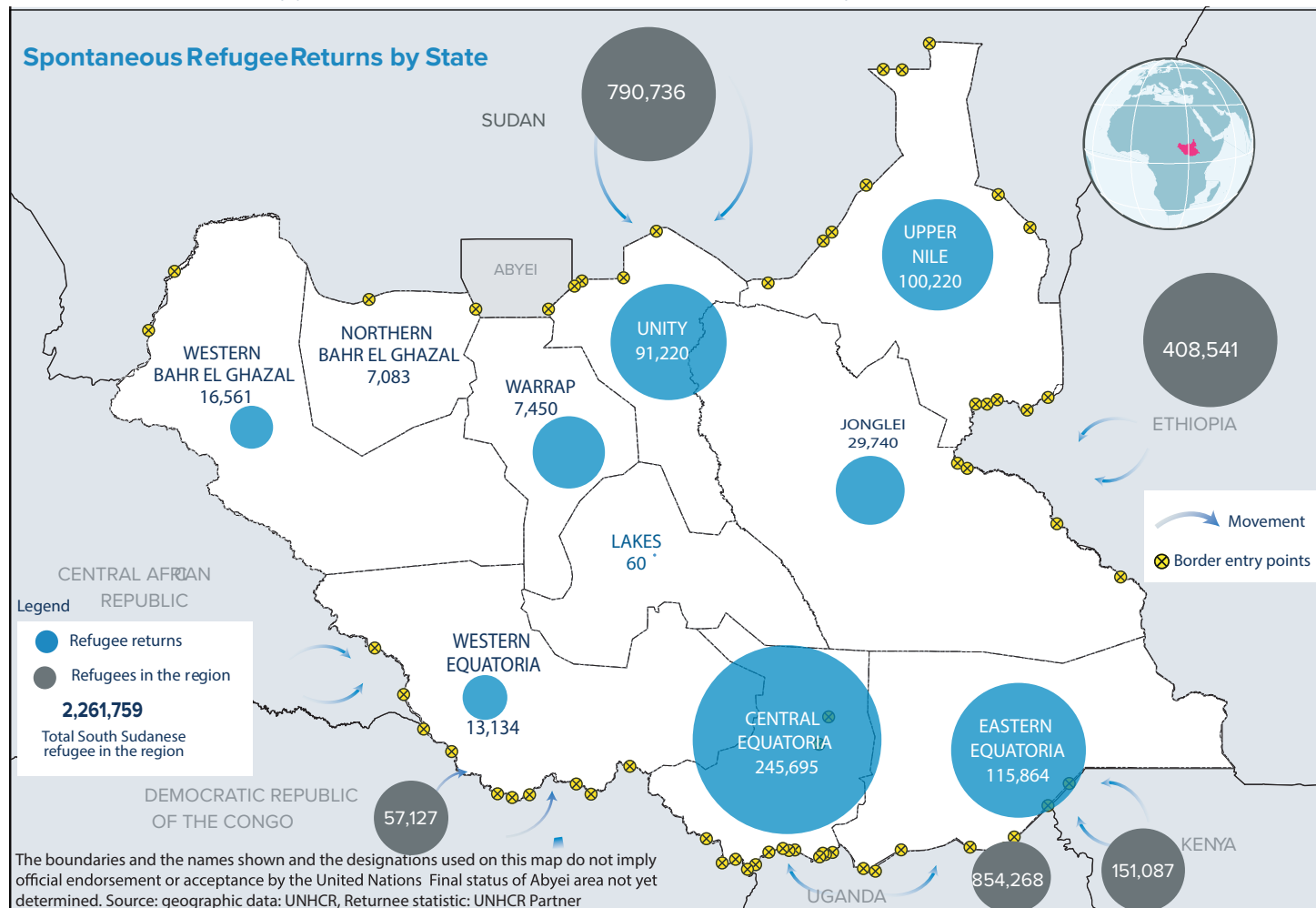
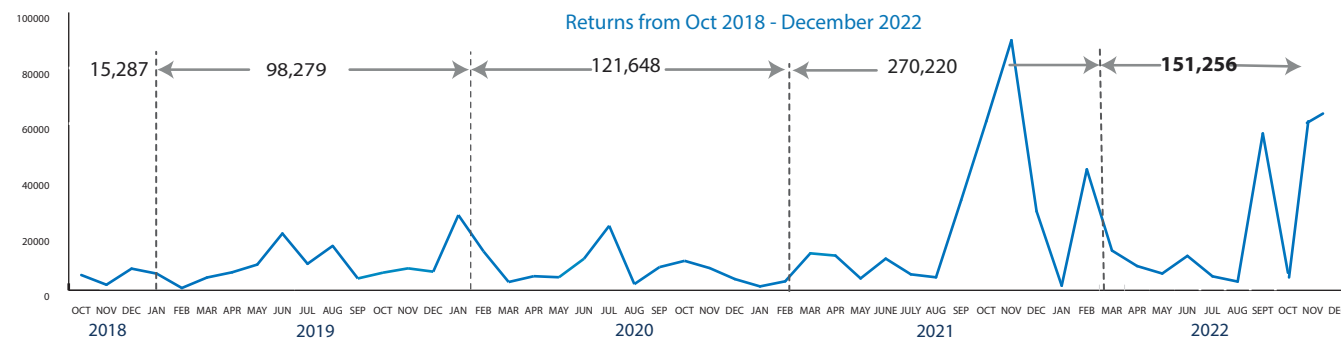
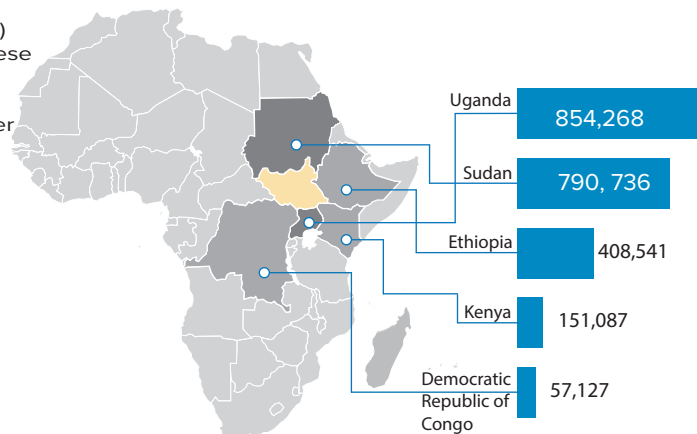
In the year 2022 a total of **151,256** returns were recorded.

Spontaneous Refugee Returns by Country of Asylum



2.3 Million refugees

South Sudanese Refugees in the region as of 31 December 2022



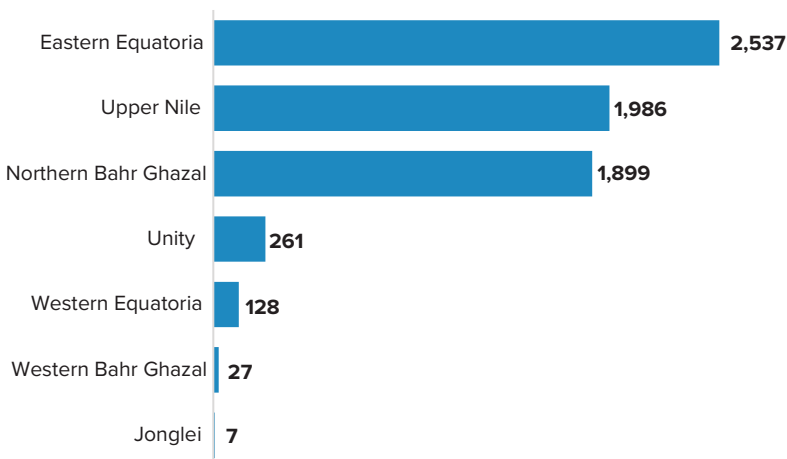
Key highlights on refugee returns and cross border movements

Return of **6,845** South Sudanese refugees have been verified and reported in the month of December 2022. This is a significant increase as compared to the returns recorded in the month of November 2022.

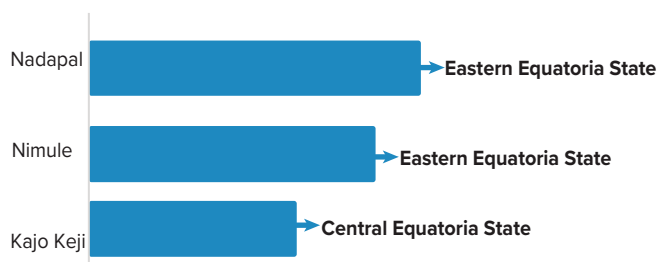
The increase is due to improved security situation in some parts of the country enabling safe access to spontaneous refugee returns to South Sudan.

This information on returnees was conducted in **16** Focus Group Discussions and **40** key informant interviews conducted during month of December 2022 in areas of return in the following 7 states of Western Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Unity, Jonglei, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Upper Nile, and Western Bahr El Ghazal. Most of the verified returnees to seven States were mostly from Sudan (52%), Uganda (38%), CAR (16%) and less than 10% from Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Central Africa Republic and Ethiopia.

Return per States for the month of December 2022



Top 3 border entry point December 2022



Most of the returns for December 2022 were from Kenya through Nadapal border crossing points of South Sudan while those from Uganda crossed through Nimule and Kajo Keji border points of Eastern and Central Equatoria State.

Contributing Partners



Reasons for leaving country of asylum

- I- Lack of access to basic services (20%).
- II- lack of employment and livelihood opportunity (6%)
- III- Insecurity in the country of asylum (4%)

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

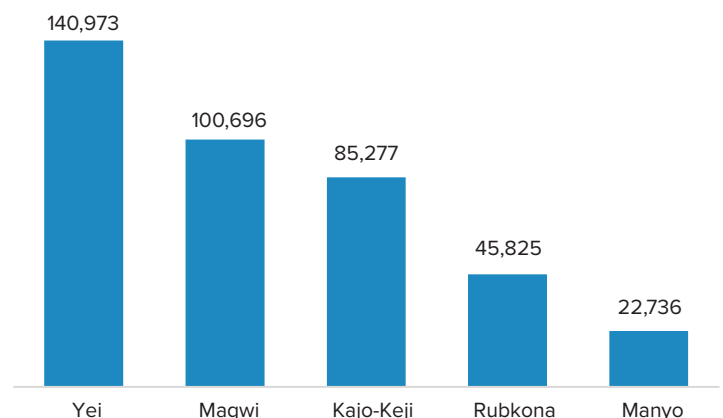
- I- Exploitation (corruption, extortion)
- II- Theft of belonging
- III- Confiscation of Refugee Cards and/or Ration Card
- IV- Harassment due to lack of travel documents

Reasons for returning to South Sudan:

The most cited reasons for returning to South Sudan from Country of Asylum include:-

- I- Improvement of security situation in South Sudan (12%)
- II- Reuniting with the family members (12%)
- III- Check and attend to property (1%)

Top 5 cumulative counties of retrun from October 2018 to 31 December 2022



Methodology

The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) in coordination with UNHCR and partners monitor cross-border movements at 42 border entry points and in areas of high return. Information is collected through interviews with returnees at border point and community based/house-hold level assessments regularly in areas of high return. The information is then triangulated with data collected from focus group discussion, key informant interviews, and meetings with local authorities and faith-based leaders, law enforcement agents, and immigration officers in the border entry points and areas of returns.