UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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Regional Bureau East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes

REGIONAL INTENTIONS SURVEY OF SUDANESE & SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda

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Introduction

The South Sudan situation remains the largest refugee crisis in Africa with 2.33 million South Sudanese refugees[1] living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda. In South Sudan, protracted conflict, environmental disasters, and outbreaks of sub-national intercommunal violence have left over 2.2 million South Sudanese displaced across all 79 counties. An estimated 75 per cent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) are residing with host communities, whilst the remaining stay in camps or camp-like settings. Despite continued pockets of localised insecurity, almost 600,000 South Sudanese have returned to their countries of origin since November 2017 from various countries of asylum of the region. Self-organized returns have taken place, often to areas where access to basic services is limited.

In recent history, Sudan has been the stage for prolonged conflicts and civil war, as well as environmental changes, namely desertification. These forces have resulted not only in violence and famine but also the forced migration of large numbers of the Sudanese population, both inside and outside the country's borders. The Sudanese situation has resulted in the displacement of 845,000 Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers to neighbouring countries, including Chad, South Sudan, Egypt, and Ethiopia and 3.71 million of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living within Sudan[2]. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) is viewed as the principal determinant of peace and stability in Sudan. This pact paved the way for the return of thousands of Sudanese refugees from neighboring countries. Nevertheless, large-scale repatriation of Sudanese refugees remains difficult given the ongoing conflict and tensions in both Darfur and South Sudan.

Profile of Respondents

South Sudanese refugees

5,472 respondents

65% female and **35%** male

Average age: **36** years old

73% are married

73% fled South Sudan due to violence and security reasons

Sudanese refugees

2,773 respondents

72% female and **28%** male

Average age: **34** years old

78% are married

65% fled Sudan due to violence and security reasons

In this complex context, UNHCR seeks to better understand South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees' intentions on solutions in the foreseeable future. In recognition of developments within Sudan and South Sudan, and within the framework of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Sudan and South Sudan Solutions Initiative, UNHCR, IGAD, and the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan have coordinated on the development of durable solutions strategies, which consider opportunities to support or respond to returns of refugees to Sudan and South Sudan.

The Regional Bureau for East, and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) region initiated a survey to map the intentions of South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees residing in four countries of asylum: Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, and South Sudan. The main objective of the survey is to assess the intention of, and impediments to, refugees returning to their place of origin or habitual places of residence in their respective countries of origin. This report seeks to outline the factors that affect the choices made by refugees in long-term displacement about returning to their home country, including when, why, and who makes these decisions. The emphasis on refugee decision-making represents an important way to comprehend the

[1] As of August 2022, UNHCR South Sudan Situation Data Portal: https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/southsudan
[2] According to the Sudan Refugee Population Figures August 2022

dynamics and likelihood of sustainable solutions for displaced populations. Moreover, the initiative aims at informing planning and assumptions with specific focus on durable solutions, protection and assistance needs.

The Regional Intention Survey is part of a process to identify and inform appropriate durable solutions. Understanding the expectations and intentions of refugees can help to better integrate their needs and opinions into the voluntary return and reintegration planning process. Durable solution approaches should be tailored to fit the profile of returning refugees and suit the complex range of circumstances within which refugees find themselves. Strategies must factor in the duration and nature of asylum, the factors that resulted in displacement, the specific needs, and capacities of the individual or community, links with the community in the place of origin, and the prevailing circumstances in the area from which they fled. This must include the security situation, socio-economic prospects, environmental and infrastructural capacity of areas of return, the capacity of national and local authorities to provide protection and assistance and the status of any humanitarian and development work in areas of return.

The following key objectives were identified for the qualitative research of the Intentions Survey:

- Identify which refugee subgroups have protection concerns in the Country of Asylum and the Country of Origin and what these concerns are, to be factored into the design of any planning for returns
- Explore the decision-making processes of refugees, to understand their current intentions and to support predictive analysis of potential future movements beyond the next 12 months (as focused on in the survey)
- Document the sources of information utilised by refugees to inform their decision-making, and identify gaps, to identify opportunities for improved information-sharing
- Determine what type of assistance people may need in the places they go to/ stay in, to help design comprehensive return interventions
- Understand why refugees engage in pendular movements and any concerns they have that prevent them from returning permanently.

The Regional Intentions Survey for South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees was conducted in 2021 and 2022. The Intentions Survey helps in ensuring community participation in planning returns, using the Age, Gender, and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) framework. It aims to gather information on the protection concerns, decision-making processes, information needs and sources, support needs in the countries of asylum and of origin and the concerns of pendular movers. It also aids in identifying the expectations, needs, fears, concerns and capacities within refugee communities, possible solutions proposed by refugee communities or specific subgroups, priority needs to be addressed as expressed by refugees, and urgent follow up protection or programming actions required in both countries of asylum and origin. This information contributes to overall efforts to ensure that voluntary repatriation exercises happen voluntarily, in safety and dignity and that the principle of family unity is upheld.

Key findings of this survey included:

South Sudanese Refugees' Intentions to Return

- About a fifth of South Sudanese refugees express plans to return in the next 12 months, while about 60% do not plan to return in the coming year.
- Plans to return vary across the three Countries of Asylum. About one third of refugees in Sudan plan to return, followed by Uganda, where one fifth plan to return, and Ethiopia with only about one in ten indicating an intention to return.
- Main reasons for not returning are related to security and safety, concerns about the political process, and the lack of education and livelihood opportunities in South Sudan.
- Only one third of refugees feel they have sufficient information about their intended area of return. The majority of those not having sufficient information indicate a need for more information on access to services and rights, and the security and political situation in South Sudan.
- 35% of South Sudanese had an occupation back home but are not working in their country of asylum, while a quarter has kept the same occupation as previously. About a third report having acquired job skills, while nearly 70% have not acquired any job-related skills in their country of asylum.

Sudanese Refugees' Intentions to Return

- One quarter of Sudanese refugees regionally express plans to return in the next 12 months, while 45% do not plan to return in the coming year.
- Plans to return to Sudan vary between the two countries of asylum. In South Sudan, 30% of refugees plan to return, 37% do not plan to return and the last third is undecided. In Ethiopia, only one out of ten refugees plan to return, while nearly 70% do not plan to return and the remaining 20% are undecided.
- Main reasons for not returning are related to security and safety, concerns about the political process, and the lack of education opportunities in Sudan.
- Only one quarter of refugees feel they have sufficient information about their intended area of return. The majority of those not having sufficient information indicate a need for more information on food security, the security and political situation, and education services in Sudan.
- About a third of Sudanese had an occupation back home but are not working in their Country of Asylum, while another third has kept the same occupation as previously. 56% report having acquired job skills. Nearly 45% have not acquired any job-related skills in their country of asylum.

Data Limitations

The full methodology is available in the Annex on page 57.

It is important to note a few key limitations of the intention survey.

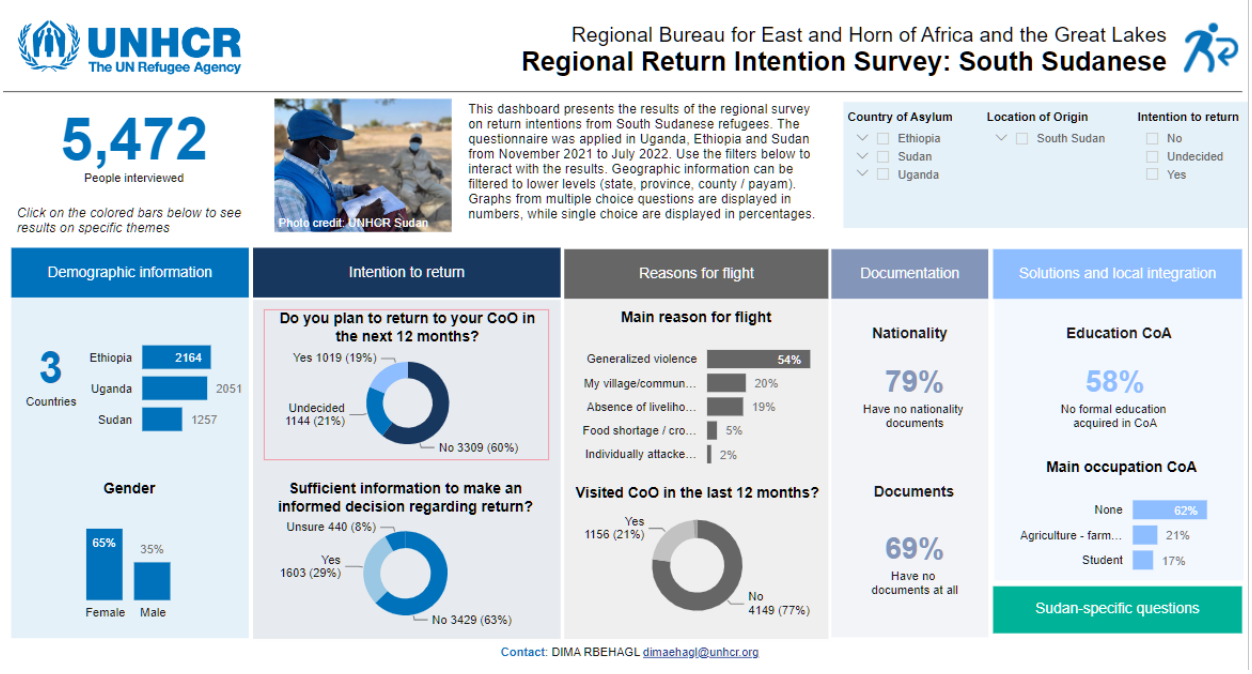
Due to the impact of political and security developments, as well as Covid-19 and some internal logistical delays, data collection took place at various times across the region and the original methodology had to be adjusted in different locations. The regional findings need to be interpreted with some caution given refugees were surveyed at different times. Refugees' intentions represent a single point in time and may have changed since the time of response, due to a myriad of factors.

Following the impact of the coup in Sudan in October 2021, the sample size was adjusted to be representative at the State level. In Uganda, data collection was conducted via telephone rather than face-to-face, and therefore limited to a much smaller population who have registered and active phone numbers. Logistical constraints, including the impact of security, staff capacity and rainy seasons on accessing populations, resulted in a smaller-than-anticipated sample in some locations, while other locations exceeded their target sample size, however following a review of the final sample, the 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error remains valid as the incidence level was increased from 50% to 80%.

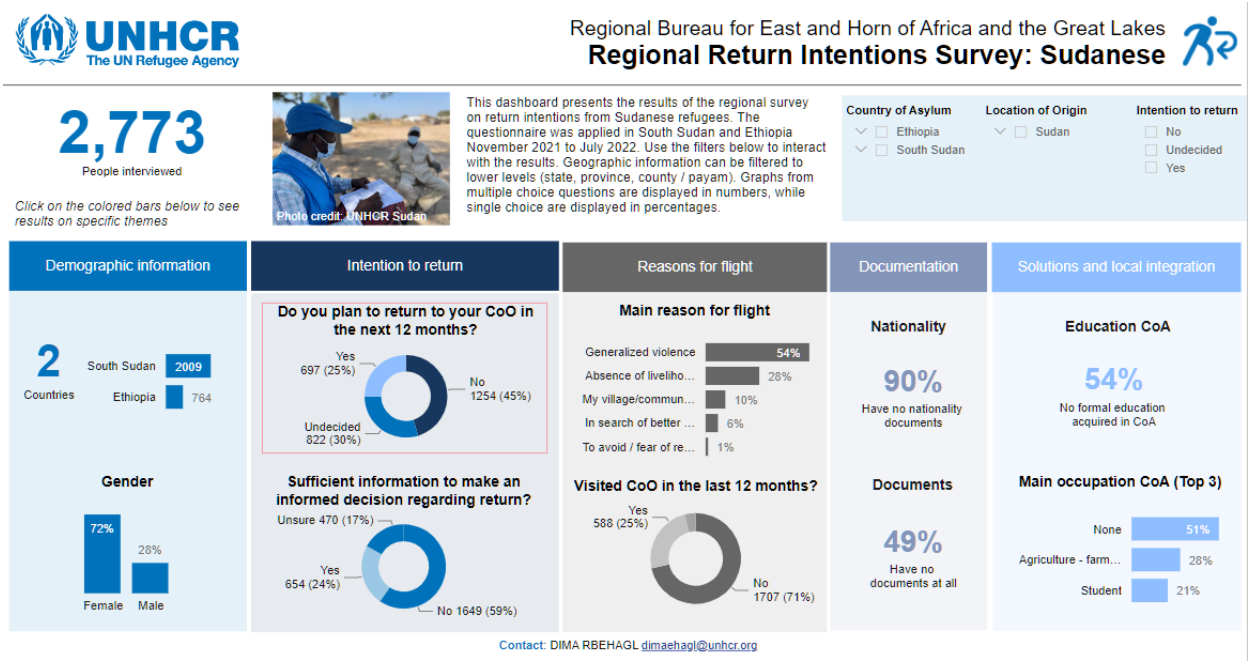
For the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), some enumerators did not closely follow the interview guide and did not provide a full transcription of the discussions, but rather a summary of the key points, potentially losing some of the detail and nuance of the discussion and introducing the perspective and bias of the facilitator.

Analysis Dashboards

The full results of the survey are available on interactive dashboards:



South Sudanese Respondents - Dashboard



Sudanese Respondents - Dashboard

South Sudanese refugees at a water pump in Sudan.

© UNHCR / UNHCR Sudan

Key regional findings

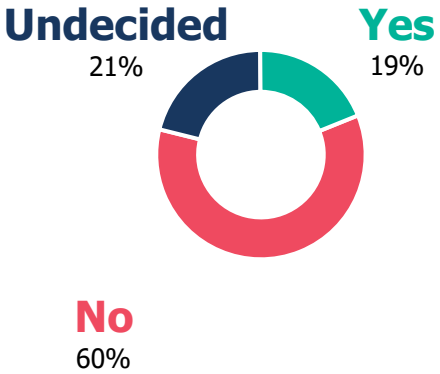
South Sudanese Refugees' Intentions to Return

A total of 5,472 South Sudanese refugees participated in the Regional Intention Survey, including 2,164 in Ethiopia, 1,257 in Sudan and 2,051 in Uganda. Among the respondents, 65% are female and 35% are male. The average age of respondents is 36 years old. Some 73% of respondents are married, 12% are widowed, 11% are single and 4% are divorced. The average household size is 7 people.

Close to **three quarters of respondents (73%)** reported that they **fled South Sudan due to violence and security reasons**. The majority (74%) indicated this was the first time they had fled South Sudan.

South Sudanese Refugees' Return Intentions at a glance

Do you plan to return to South Sudan in the next 12 months?



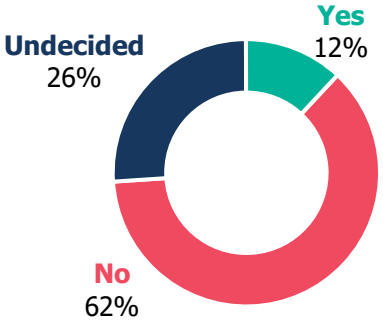
Close to one in five South Sudanese refugee respondents expressed plans to return to their country of origin in the next 12 months. Another fifth reported they were undecided, while the remaining 60% indicated they did not plan to return to South Sudan in the coming year.

Most of the respondents (85%) were the designated head of household, who are often thought to be the primary decision makers around return. However, respondents were also asked '*Have you been / are you involved in the discussion on whether to return to your Country of Origin?*', and only 20% responded in the affirmative.

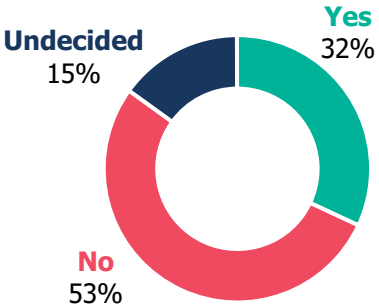
Return intentions did not vary between those who were the designated head of household and those who were not (19% of both groups indicated they plan to return). However, among those who indicated they had been involved in discussions on returns in the household, 42% plan to return in the coming 12 months, compared to 12% of those who indicated they have not been involved in discussions. Future research into decision-making dynamics within and between families and households would be important to provide a more comprehensive picture of overall decision-making on returns.

Country Spotlight

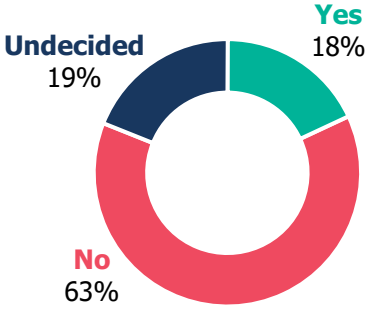
Respondents in Ethiopia



Respondents in Sudan



Respondents in Uganda



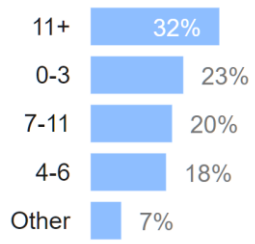
Plans to return to South Sudan varied across the three countries of asylum. Close to one third of respondents in Sudan reported plans to return to South Sudan in the coming 12 months, the highest affirmative response in the region. This was followed by Uganda, where 18% of respondents indicated plans to return, and then Ethiopia (12%).

In Ethiopia, one in four respondents remained undecided about their return plans, compared with 19% in Uganda and 15% in Sudan.

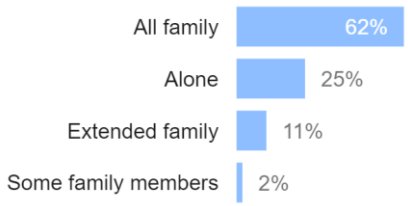
South Sudanese refugees planning to return in the next 12 months

A total of 19% of respondents indicated they plan to return to South Sudan in the next 12 months. These respondents were asked further questions regarding their plans and motivations. Close to one quarter (23%) plan to return in the next three months, however the most common timeline reported was to return in 11 or more months (32%). The majority plan to return with all their family (62%), though up to one quarter plan to return alone. Of these respondents, 66% wished to check the situation before bringing their families, 20% reported their families were already in South Sudan, and 14% noted they have no family in their country of asylum. **Most respondents (82%) plan to return to their place of origin / residence**. Respondents were able to share up to three main reasons why they are planning to return, with the most common being family reunification (a pull factor), insufficient food security in the country of asylum (a push factor) and work/livelihood opportunities in South Sudan (pull factor).

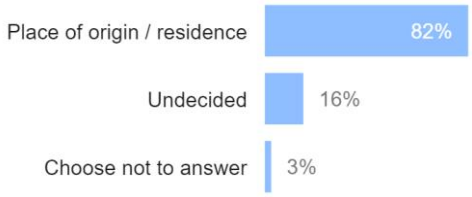
When are you planning to return? *(months)*



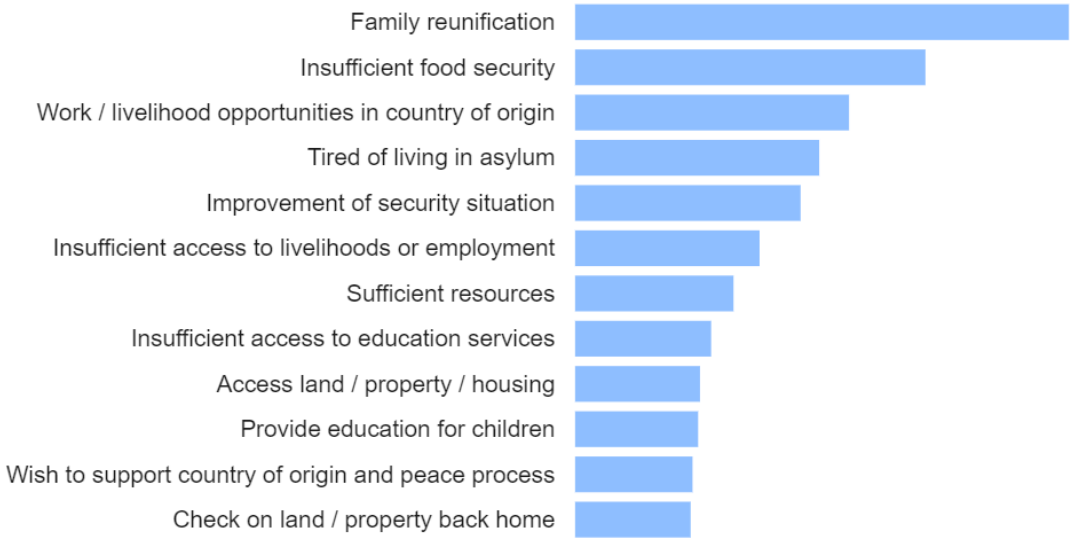
Whom are you planning to return to South Sudan with?



Where would you return?



What are the main reasons why you are planning to return to South Sudan in the next 12 months? *(top 12 main reasons cited)*



South Sudanese refugees not planning to return in the next 12 months

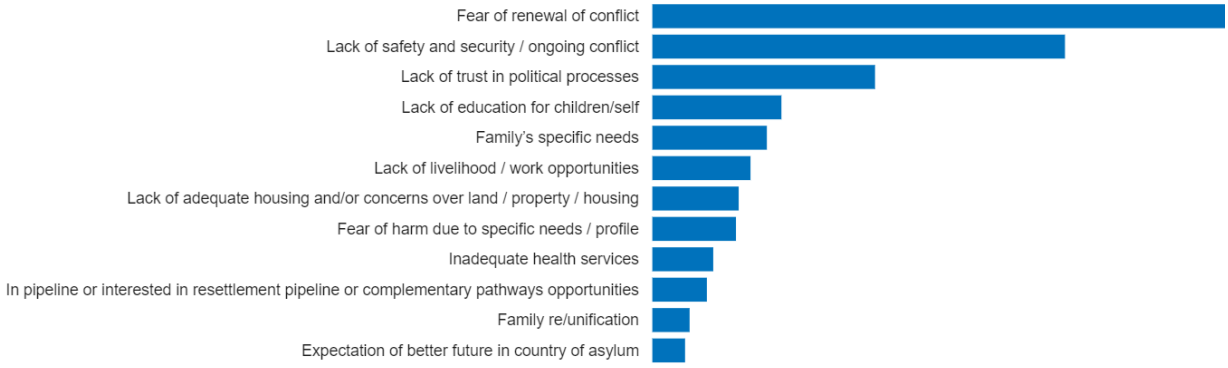
Most respondents – 60 per cent – do not plan to return to South Sudan in the coming year. **Respondents' main reasons** (they could give up to three) as to why they do not plan to return **are mostly related to security and safety, concerns about the political process, and the lack of education and livelihood opportunities in South Sudan**.

Question asked if respondent answered having no plan to return in the next 12 months: **What are the main reasons why you are not planning to return to South Sudan in the next 12 months?** *(top 12 main reasons cited)*

South Sudanese refugees undecided on return

The remaining 21% of respondents were currently undecided about their return plans. Their main reasons for indecision were similar to those given by respondents not planning to return.

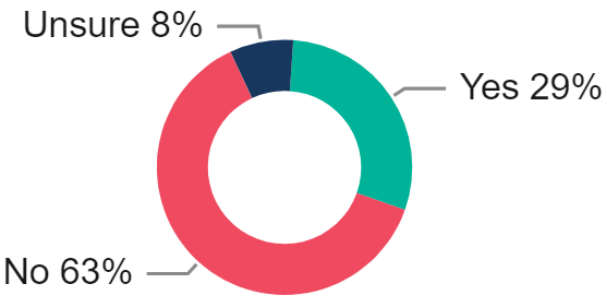
Question asked if respondent was undecided on their plan to return in the next 12 months: **What are the main reasons?** *(top 12 main reasons cited)*



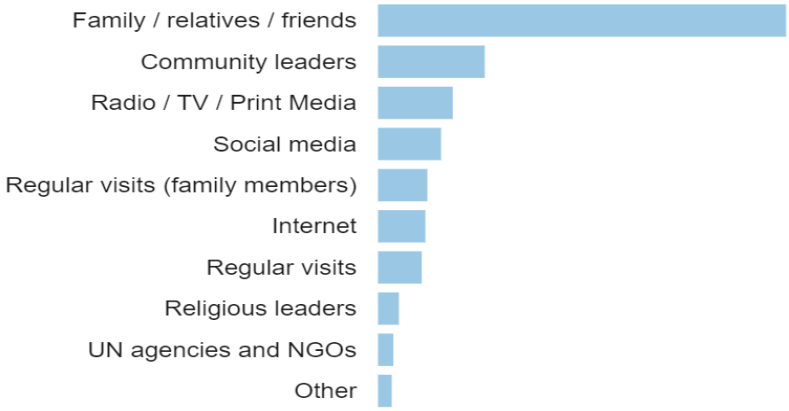
South Sudanese refugees' access to information

Information about the conditions within the country of origin is vital for refugees to make informed decisions on return. **Only one third of respondents felt they have sufficient information about their intended area of return**, with most reporting they get their information from family, relatives, and friends. **Of those who reported they did not have sufficient information (63%) or were unsure (8%), the majority indicated a need for more information on access to services and rights in South Sudan, as well as the security and political situation**.

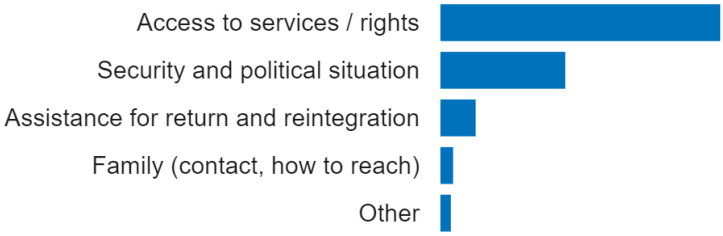
Do you believe you have sufficient information about the intended area of return to make an informed decision regarding return?



Respondents who answered yes were asked: **Who/What are your sources of information on the situation in your place of origin or habitual residence?**



Respondents who answered no / I am not sure were asked: **What additional information do you need?**



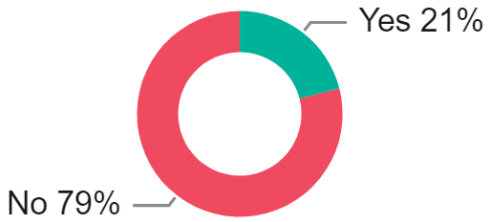
South Sudanese refugees' documentation

Possession of individual identity (ID) documentation is very important for both refugees in countries of asylum and for those returning to their country of origin. Birth certificates, national ID cards, passports, residence permits, even a driver's license—are necessary to prove one's identity to the authorities in the Country of Asylum, and to the authorities in the home country when it is safe to return. A lack of identity documents significantly increases the vulnerability of those who have been forcibly displaced, whether in their own country or across international borders. This is not only in the context of flight, but also when return home becomes possible.

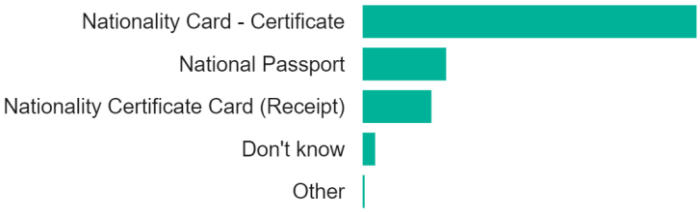
Only one in five respondents have a nationality document from South Sudan, most of whom report holding a nationality card / certificate. Most of the remaining 79% of respondents without a nationality document indicated they had never applied for a document, or they had lost it, or it was left in South Sudan at their time of flight.

However, almost half of respondents (49%) indicated they hold another form of identification, most commonly a refugee ID or family attestation letter.

Do you have any nationality document from South Sudan?



Respondents who answered yes were asked to select all documents that applied:



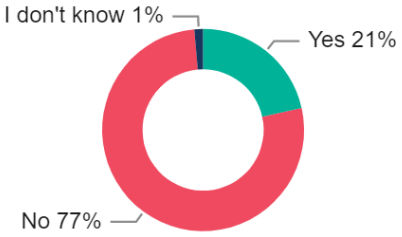
Respondents who answered no were asked why:

Pendular movement of South Sudanese refugees

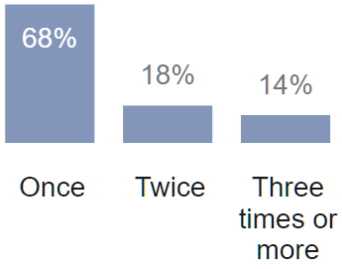
Regionally, 21% of respondents indicated they or a family member had visited South Sudan in the past year. However, this varied by country of asylum; 16% of respondents in both Ethiopia and Sudan had visited, while 30% of respondents in Uganda reported undertaking a visit.

The majority have made just one visit (68%), and most reported travelling for family reasons.

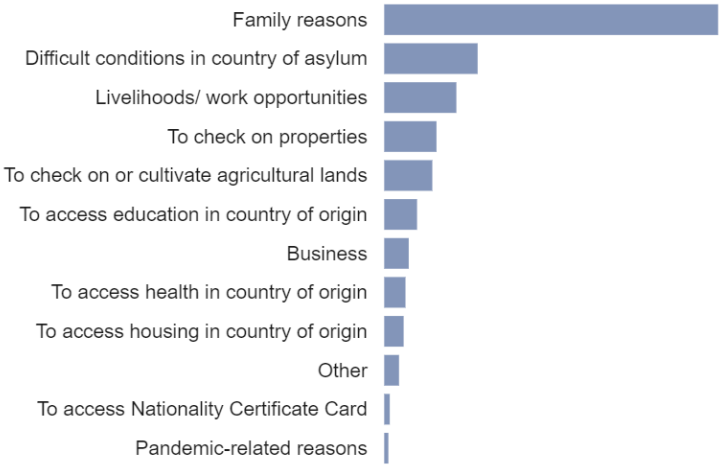
Have you or any of your family undertaken any visits to South Sudan in the past 12 months?



Respondents who answered yes were asked: **How many times have you/they returned to South Sudan?**



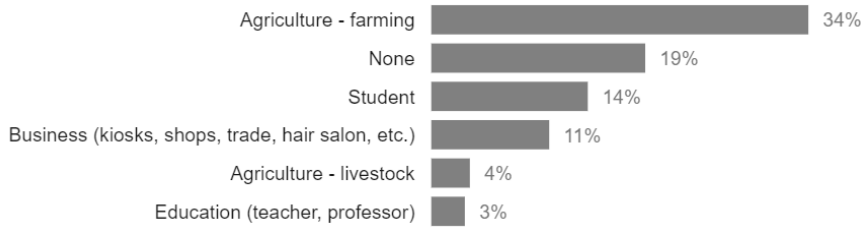
Respondents who answered yes were asked: **Why did you / they return?**



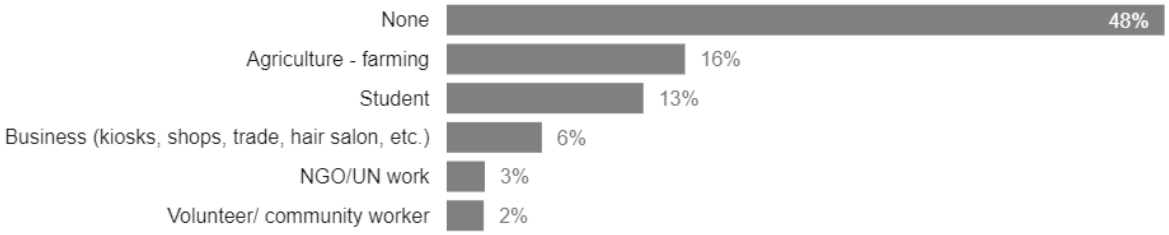
Prospects for local solutions and local integration

Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding their occupation and education. **A total of 35% of respondents reported they had an occupation in South Sudan but are not working in their country of asylum. Another 25% have kept the same occupation as previously**, 20% have changed occupations since seeking asylum, 13% had no occupation in either country, and the remaining 7% have an occupation in their country of asylum after previously having no occupation in South Sudan.

What was your main occupation prior to fleeing South Sudan?



Currently, what is your main occupation in the country of asylum?



Regarding job skills and education, 32% of respondents reported acquiring job skills, mostly in agricultural trades, basic entrepreneurial skills, hospitality trades and building and construction. The remaining 68% indicated they have not acquired any job-related skills in their country of asylum. Some 42% of respondents reported receiving formal education in their country of asylum, including secondary education (30%), primary education (29%), vocational training (16%), tertiary education (13%) and basic literacy for adults (12%).

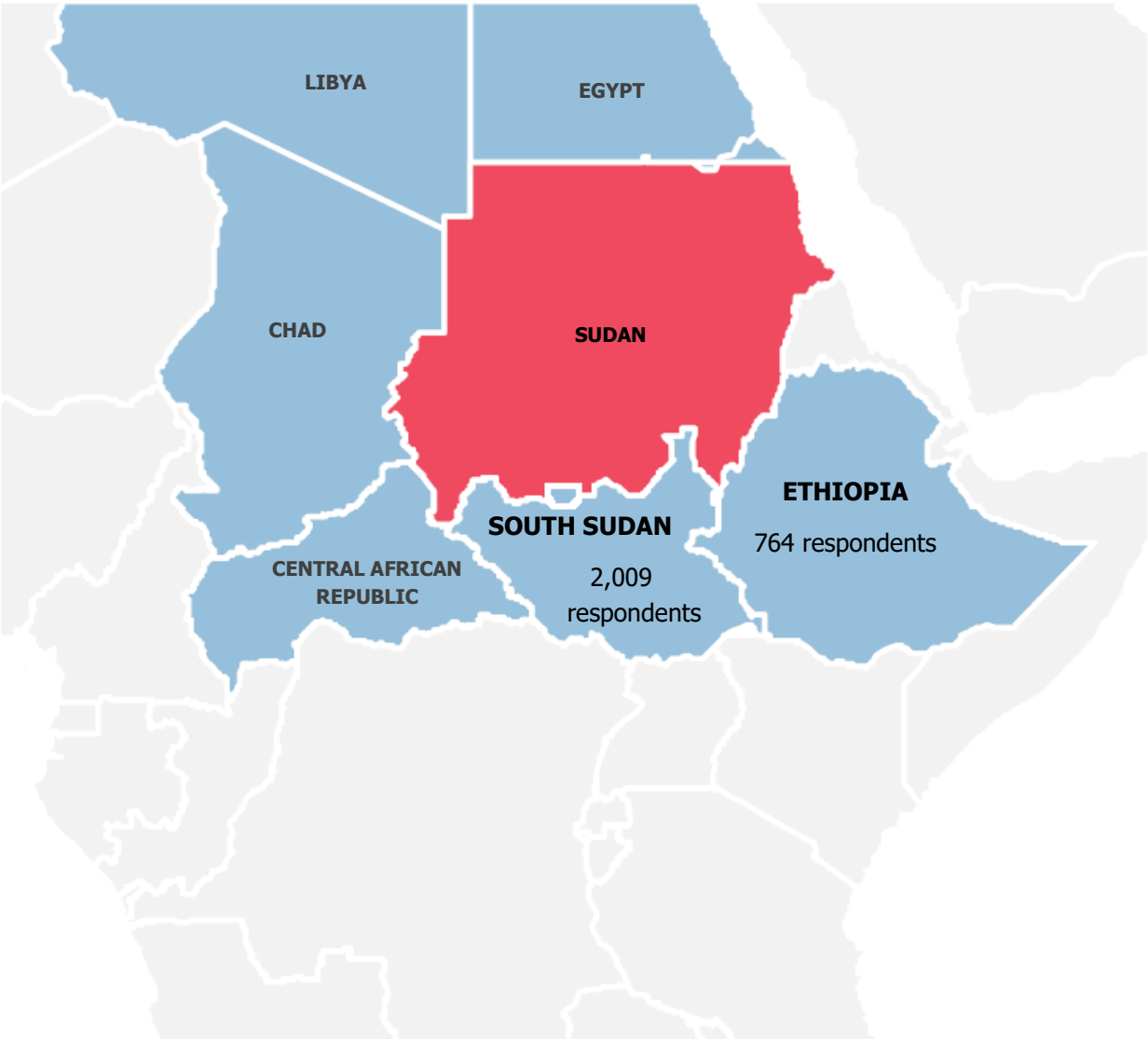
South Sudanese women in a refugee camp in Sudan, at sunset.

© UNHCR / UNHCR Sudan

Sudanese Refugees' Intentions to Return

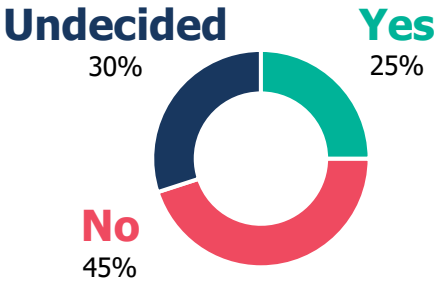
A total 2,773 Sudanese refugees participated in the Regional Intentions Survey, including 764 in Ethiopia and 2,009 in South Sudan. Among the respondents, 72% are female and 28% are male. The average age of respondents is 34 years old. Some 78% of respondents are married, 14% are single, 5% are widowed and 3% are divorced. The average household size is 7 people.

Close to two thirds of respondents (65%) reported that they fled Sudan due to violence and security reasons, followed by 27% who fled due to lack of livelihoods due to the conflict. The majority (88%) indicated this was the first time they had fled Sudan.



Sudanese refugees' return intentions at a glance

Do you plan to return to Sudan in the next 12 months?



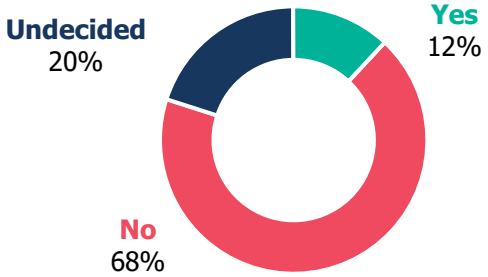
Regionally, one quarter of Sudanese refugee respondents expressed plans to return to their country of origin in the next 12 months. Some 30% reported they were undecided, while the remaining 45% indicated they did not plan to return to South Sudan in the coming year.

Respondents were also asked *'Have you been / are you involved in the discussion on whether to return to your Country of Origin?'*, to which 26% responded 'yes', 4% responded 'partly' and 70% responded 'no'. Among those who had been involved in discussions, 46%, or almost half, indicate they plan to return to Sudan in the coming year, compared to 18% of those who indicated they have not been involved in discussions.

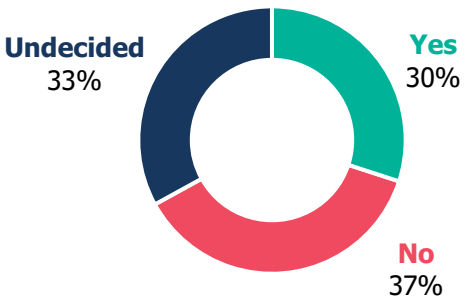
Return intentions varied slightly among those who were the head of household or not. Some 77% of respondents were heads of household, of which 26% indicated they planned to return. The remaining 23% of total respondents were not the head of household, and only 22% reported plans to return in the coming year. Future research into decision-making dynamics within and between families and households would be important to provide a more comprehensive picture of overall decision-making on returns.

Country Spotlight

Respondents in Ethiopia



Respondents in South Sudan



Plans to return to Sudan varied a lot between the two Countries of Asylum.

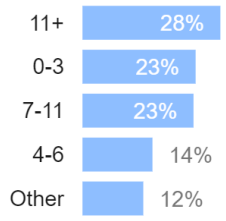
In South Sudan, 30% of respondents indicated plans to return, 37% do not plan to return and the remaining third reported they were undecided. In Ethiopia, only 12% of respondents plan to return to Sudan in the next 12 months, 68% do not plan to return and the remaining 20% are undecided.

Sudanese refugees planning to return in the next 12 months

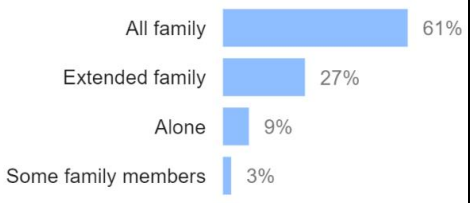
One in four respondents indicated they plan to return to Sudan in the next 12 months. These respondents were asked further questions regarding their plans and motivations. Close to one quarter (23%) plan to return in the next three months, however the most common timeline reported was to return in 11 or more months (28%). Another 23% plan to return in 7 to 11 months. The majority plan to return with all their family (61%), with another 27% planning to return with their extended family. Only 9% of respondents plan to return on their own, of which over half (54%) will do so to check the situation before returning with their family and another 29% have their family already in Sudan.

Most respondents (72%) plan to return to their place of origin / residence. Respondents were able to share up to three main reasons why they are planning to return, with the most common being family reunification, being tired of living in asylum, having sufficient resources to return and work/ livelihood opportunities in Sudan.

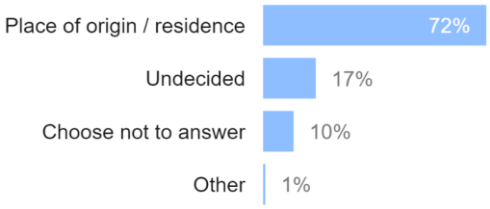
When are you planning to return? *(months)*



Whom are you planning to return to Sudan with?



Where would you return?

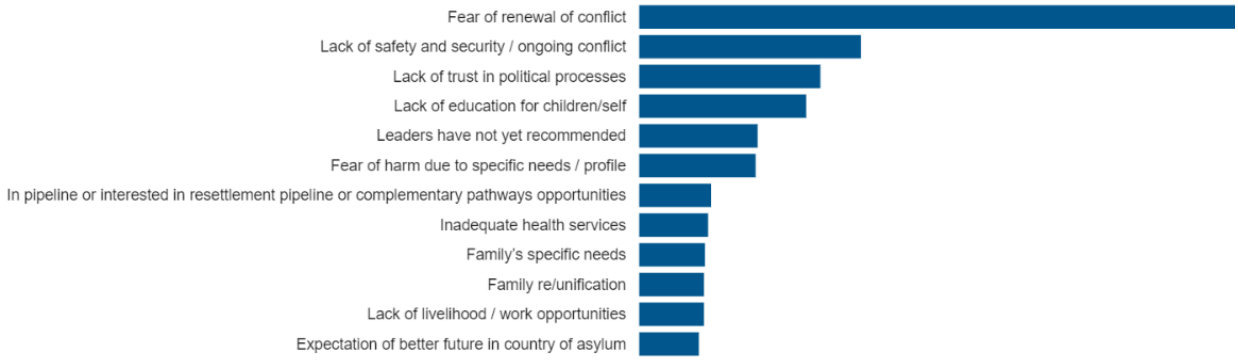


What are the main reasons why you are planning to return to Sudan in the next 12 months? *(top 12 main reasons cited)*

Sudanese refugees not planning to return in the next 12 months

Just under half of respondents – 45 per cent – do not plan to return to South Sudan in the coming year. **Respondents' main reasons** (they could give up to three) as to why they do not plan to return **are mostly related to security and safety, concerns about the political process, and the lack of education opportunities in Sudan**.

Question asked if respondent answered having no plan to return in the next 12 months: **What are the main reasons why you are not planning to return to Sudan in the next 12 months?** *(top 12 main reasons cited)*



Sudanese refugees undecided on return

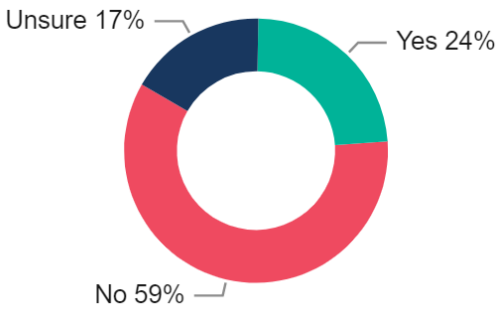
The remaining 30% of respondents were currently undecided about their return plans. Their main reasons for indecision were similar to those given by respondents not planning to return, mainly fear of renewal of conflict and a lack of trust in political processes.

Question asked if respondent was undecided on their plan to return in the next 12 months: **What are the main reasons?** *(top 12 main reasons cited)*

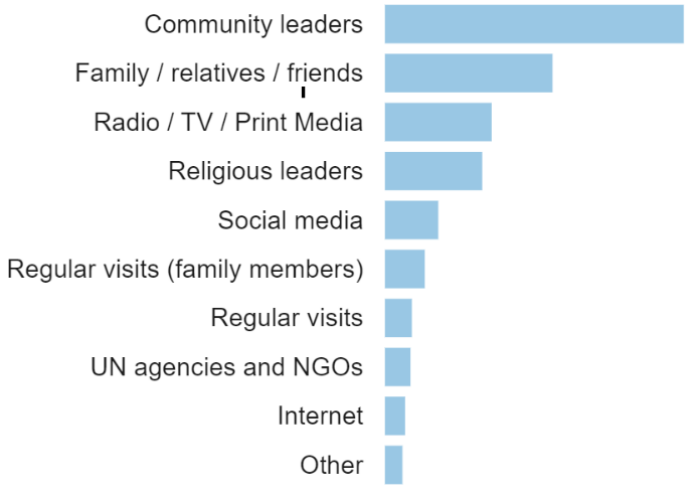
Sudanese refugees' access to Information

Information about the conditions within the country of origin is vital for refugees to make informed decisions on return. **One quarter of respondents felt they have sufficient information about their intended area of return**, with most reporting their get their information from community leaders, followed by family, relatives, and friends. **Of those who reported they did not have sufficient information (59%) or were unsure (17%), the majority indicated a need for more information on food security, the security and political situation and education services in Sudan.**

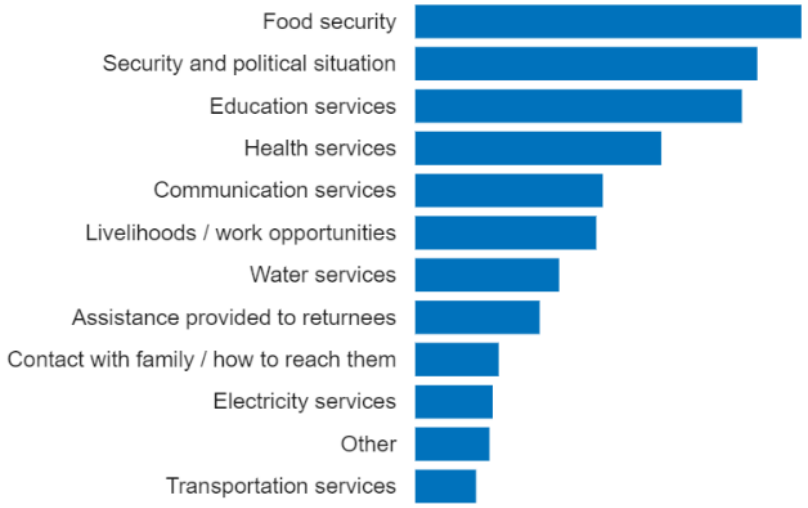
Do you believe you have sufficient information about the intended area of return to make an informed decision regarding return?



Respondents who answered yes were asked: **Who/What are your sources of information on the situation in your place of origin or habitual residence?**



Respondents who answered no / I am not sure were asked: **What additional information do you need?**



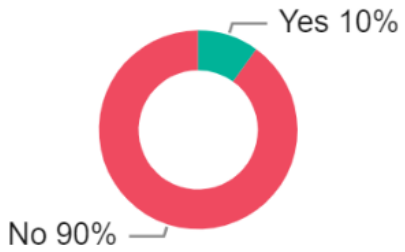
Sudanese refugees' documentation

As previously noted, possession of individual identity documentation is very important for both refugees in countries of asylum and for those returning to their country of origin.

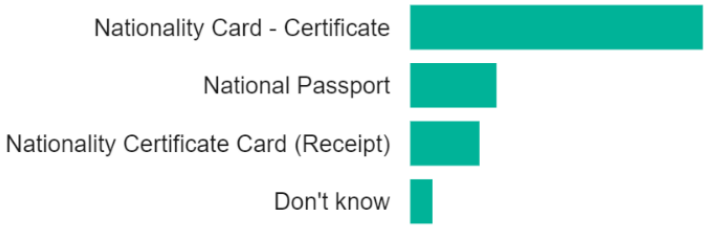
Only one in ten respondents have a nationality document from Sudan, most of whom report holding a nationality card / certificate. Most of the remaining 90% of respondents without a nationality document indicated they had never applied for a document or did not know how to apply for one.

However, almost half of respondents (45%) indicated they hold another form of identification, most commonly a refugee ID.

Do you have any nationality document from Sudan?



Respondents who answered yes were asked to select all documents that applied:



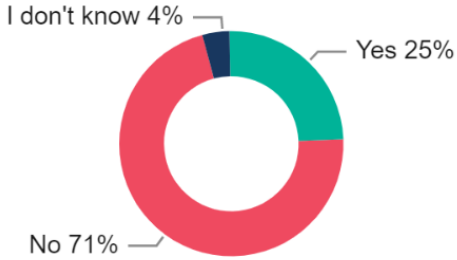
Respondents who answered no were asked why:

Pendular Movement of Sudanese refugees

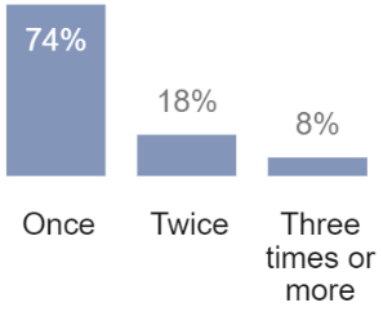
Regionally, one quarter of respondents indicated they or a family member had visited Sudan in the past year. However, this varied by country of asylum; only 12% of respondents in Ethiopia had visited Sudan, while 27% of respondents in South Sudan reported undertaking a visit.

The majority have made just one visit (74%), and most reported travelling for family reasons.

Have you or any of your family undertaken any visits to Sudan in the past 12 months?



Respondents who answered yes were asked: **How many times have you/they returned to Sudan?**

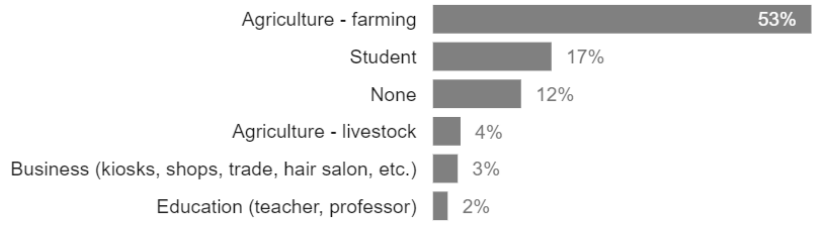


Respondents who answered yes were asked: **Why did you / they return?**

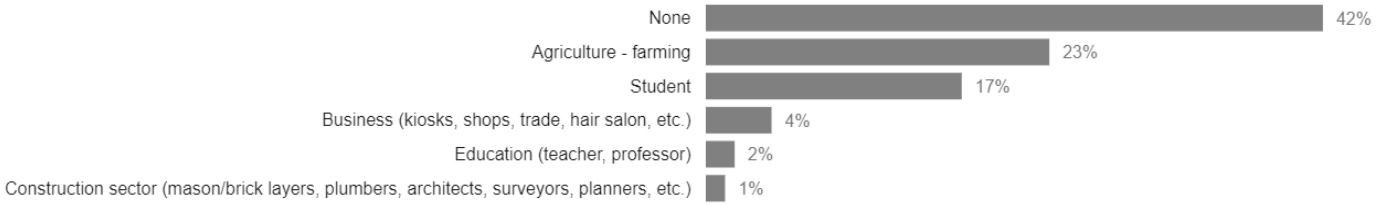
Prospects for local solutions and local integration

Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding their occupation and education. **A total 34% of respondents reported they had an occupation in Sudan but are not working in their country of asylum. Another 36% have kept the same occupation as previously**, 18% have changed occupations since seeking asylum, 8% had no occupation in either country, and the remaining 4% have an occupation in their country of asylum after previously having no occupation in Sudan.

What was your main occupation prior to fleeing Sudan?



Currently, what is your main occupation in the country of asylum?



Regarding job skills and education, 56% of respondents reported acquiring job skills, mostly in agricultural trades, basic entrepreneurial skills, retail trades, beauty / care, and hospitality trades. The remaining 44% indicated they have not acquired any job-related skills in their country of asylum. Some 46% of respondents reported receiving formal education in their country of asylum, including primary education (52%), secondary education (24%), basic literacy for adults (11%), vocational training (7%), and tertiary education (6%).

Findings from the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

The following are the findings that were identified from the FGDs and KIIs of the Intentions Survey for both the Sudanese and the South Sudanese caseloads in the countries that undertook this exercise.

The findings and analysis of the Intentions Survey focused on the below thematic areas:

- Protection concerns
- Decision making processes
- Information needs and sources
- Support needs
- Concerns of the pendular movers

The findings and analysis which emanated from the FGDs and KIIs of the Intentions Survey have been summarized below:

1- Protection concerns

Thematic objective: Identify which subgroups have protection concerns in Countries of Asylum and Countries of Origin and what these concerns are, so diversity can be factored into the design of any return intentions.

The FGDs and KIIs respondents mentioned that minority ethnic groups both for Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees face protection concerns both in the Countries of Asylum and the Countries of Origin. The following are the **concerns of the minority ethnic groups** within the Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees on returns: Insecurity and widespread inter-tribal and communal conflicts and lack of basic services such as health facilities, water supply, food, and schools. Lack of vocational trainings and livelihoods opportunities was also expressed. Refugees from minority ethnic groups mentioned that they often do not feel represented in the government due to their insufficient numbers. They mentioned that they are always assimilated into a bigger ethnic group/ clan, hence their voices are not heard and that puts them in a disadvantaged position. Moreover, they noted the lack of specific information on the security situation in the areas of origin, and lack of comprehensive peace agreement among the warring factions in the respective countries of origin. Finally, they stated that former government workers in Sudan may face security and protection concerns when it comes to returns following the establishment of a new regime.

Without the abovementioned protection concerns being addressed, many Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees may not choose to return to their home countries. Both Sudanese and South Sudanese respondents stated that the main reasons why most refugees are in the Countries of Asylum is because of

lack of security in their home countries. They also mentioned that basic services are being provided by the humanitarian actors in the Country of Asylum and they do not have access to clear information about the availability of these services in the Country of Origin.

See the below statement from Ethiopia government authorities in charge of the refugees' affairs concerning returns to Sudan in response to a Key Informant Interview conducted in the context of the Intentions Survey:

> *"The majority of the Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia arrived in 2013. The main reason for their flight from Sudan was the political unrest in their home country. The unrest persists; therefore, these refugees do not intend to go back to their countries (…). The refugees were interviewed on various occasions; however, they have repeatedly stated that they do not intend on going back. This is not because they hate their country, but the conflict in their country is still unresolved, there is still a civil war going on there (…). A few refugees at the camp are also going back to their home countries, but this is not because the situation there has gotten better. Occasionally, a conflict arises at the camps, especially last year there over 3-4 conflicts arose, around 12 people lost their lives and children were kidnapped. In addition, there is a civil war going on between Anwak and Murule, therefore due to these reasons the refugees are returning to their home country. Their decision to return is not due to positive influences, they are just trying to get away from the unrest and conflict going on in the refugee camps in Ethiopia."*

The FGDs and KIIs mentioned that, among refugees who are categorized as persons with specific needs (PSNs), there are some very vulnerable people in refugee camps who depend on agencies for services like acquiring artificial limbs from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to facilitate their mobility. However, the services provided are often deemed to be insufficient due to lack of enough resources. The PSNs also stated that they are also not sure whether they would be able to get similar services in their countries of origin.

The Sudanese and South Sudanese respondents stated that minority refugee ethnic groups are primarily concerned about opportunities to access resettlement to third countries and/ or relocation within the Countries of Asylum. They mentioned that these concerns are priorities because when the majority ethnic groups in the refugee camps experience inter-communal conflict, minority ethnic groups are the most affected.

The Sudanese respondents mentioned that although there is a peace agreement signed between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/ North (SPLM North) under Chairman Malik Agar, they do not perceive there to be actual sustainable peace on the ground.

The respondents for both the Sudanese and South Sudanese caseloads stated that because there was war in the areas of origin, there is possibility for the presence of land mines or Unexploded Explosive Ordinances (UXOs) in these areas that needs to be assessed before any returns are undertaken.

The respondents also noted that different categories of South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees living in the various countries of asylum may have common concerns regarding prospects of return, but there was also agreement that each group has its own specific needs. Respondents stated that all refugees need the provision of basic services such as water, health facilities, education, peace and security and shelter in both countries of asylum and origin. Women, however, expressed more concerns than men about security and

protection to resume work in their fields and manage their livestock, shelter, and housing. They also highlighted the need for better access to education and vocational training for them and their children. They stated that support on small-scale business would also be welcomed, as well as income-generating activities (IGAs) and literacy classes.

Respondents from the women's FGDs stated that they lack adult education. Women emphasised that if services like water, health, and education are better in the countries of asylum, refugees will choose to stay. However, they would return if better services can be provided in countries of origin. To support their return to countries of origin, women stated that they will require seedlings and tools to facilitate their work in agriculture, but also training and materials provision for handcraft activities.

With reference to reproductive health, women and girls stated that they need specific health services in addition to dignity kits. Reproductive health services and supplementary food support which include pregnant and lactating women are important for mothers and children. Women also mentioned that vaccination provision for their children is needed in their respective countries of origin. They also requested livelihoods start-up kits and food and non-food items for them to restart their lives in their home countries.

Men and youth respondents stated that they mainly need security both in the countries of origin and the countries of asylum, which would facilitate their ability to run different businesses and have access to work opportunities and income generating activities. They also stated that the difficulty in accessing jobs in the countries of asylum means that many men are unable to support themselves and their families. This encourages them to return to their countries of origin, where they can grow crops and sustain themselves and their families. South Sudanese men requested fishing nets and boats to support their work within the fishing industry in South Sudan, which would contribute to their self-reliance and ability to support their households.

Youth respondents expressed better education and vocational training as their priority need, and requested university scholarships, literacy classes and youth promotion activities such as youth centers equipped with TVs and sport materials, and recreational activities. They stated that they also need access to income generating activities both in the Countries of Asylum and the Countries of Origin. The need for better health services in the Countries of Asylum and the Countries of Origin was also cited by participants in the youth FGD.

Elderly persons need services and safety in their areas of origin to return and live in dignity, and inclusion in service provision including access to mobility aids, like wheelchairs.

Most respondents stated that there are some specific groups in the refugee communities that have particular concerns regarding returns, such as disabled persons requiring more targeted support, which is also lacking in their Countries of Asylum, such as mobility devices and access to services like schools and livelihood opportunities. Moreover, they would require additional support during the relocation process but also to facilitate sustainable reintegration in countries of origin. They will need help accessing medical services and resources to support their livelihood. Persons with Specific Needs emphasized the needs for specialized schools for persons with disabilities, PSN livelihood projects, medical care, and access to artificial limbs. During implementation of projects in both countries of asylum and countries of origin, agencies should have a "Do no harm" approach and ensure consultations with persons with specific needs on return with information sharing on the situation relating to their particular needs in the areas of return. Special

transportation and/or support during transport for persons with disabilities should be secured, and they should be provided with assistance to rehabilitate their houses and secure any available entitlements.

With reference to persons in specialized professions, some teachers expressed a fear of not being able to regain access to their jobs/ positions if they return to their respective countries of origin.

Persons in mixed marriages between refugees and nationals of the Countries of Asylum, and minority ethnic groups do not want to go back to their countries of origin due to lack of clear legislation on the rights of persons in mixed marriages or, where legislation does exist, concerns relating to administrative procedures or practical application of the law.

Most ethnic minorities do not feel safe to return to their areas of origin unless and until their safety is guaranteed, due to the multifaceted dimensions of the conflict (including ethnic conflicts). The decision on where to settle in the countries of origin is also informed by ethnic considerations (refugees feel safe amongst their communities) and this will also inform decision to return. Thus, in the absence of implementation of peace agreements and consolidation of peace, it will be difficult for some minority ethnic groups to return.

The majority of those who choose to return to their home countries are the people from the majority ethnic groups and those ethnic groups associated with ruling parties in the Countries of Origin.

2- Decision-making processes

Thematic objective: Explore refugees' decision-making processes, to understand current intentions and to predict potential future movements beyond the next 12 months (as focused on in the survey).

The majority of Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees are not willing to return to their home country now, although a small number have shown willingness to return.

The following were identified as the expectations, concerns, fears, needs and capacities on returns:

Expectations of refugees concerning returns

The respondents stated that the expectations of Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees regarding solutions options is to have the following services in place in the Country of Origin and Country of Asylum: medical services, security, peace, and stability, schools to pursue education, adequate clean water, adequate food, livelihood opportunities, and work permits in the countries of asylum.

The respondents interviewed in Ethiopia stated that their expectations are for the Ethiopian government to reach an agreement with UN agencies on how refugees can access citizenship or work permissions including access to agricultural land to produce food.

The respondents mentioned their concerns relating to ongoing intercommunal clashes in Ethiopia, which had precipitated returns of some Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees to their countries of origin, despite ongoing instability and insecurity in areas of origin. They also mentioned that they expect to be able to access different durable solution opportunities such as resettlement to a third country for those

refugees with protection concerns in the Country of Asylum, who cannot return to the Country of Origin due to their individual protection needs.

Summary of concerns and needs of refugees concerning returns

Both Sudanese and South Sudanese respondents from the FGDs and KIIs stated the following as their main concerns on returns: destruction of houses and loss of properties during the civil war in the Country of Origin, insecurity both in the Country of Origin and Asylum, lack of vocational trainings, lack of basic services such as (health, adequate and clean water, food, schools, and housing, land and property). The respondents also mentioned lack of livelihoods opportunities, lack of comprehensive peace agreements between all the warring factions, the different educational curriculums between the Country of Asylum and Origin and languages used in schools as key concerns. One example provided is the use of English as the main language of instruction in schools in the Country of Asylum, while Arabic is the main language of instruction in schools in the Country of Origin. The respondents stated that this would make it difficult for people whose children are using the system of the Country of Asylum to decide to return. They said that some community members prefer that their children complete their education level in English in the Country of Asylum and will go later to pursue a higher level of education in the Country of Origin.

Both the Sudanese and South Sudanese respondents highlighted the following as their main fears on returns: fear of underground mines in the countries of origin which might have not exploded during the war, and fear to return due to widespread inter-ethnic and communal conflicts and insecurity. The respondents stated that there is still fear of unmet needs and lack of basic services in the countries of origin. Refugee communities feel there are free medical services, schools, water, and food services in the Country of Asylum that are easily accessible, while many of these services are not guaranteed in the Country of Origin. The respondents mentioned that the refugee community fears lack of security, peace, and stability both in the Country of Asylum and the Country of Origin. They also have concerns relating to the restrictions on work permits for refugees in the Country of Asylum. The respondents located in the urban centers highlighted challenges faced by urban refugees on renting a house in Countries of Asylum due to high rental charges.

During the outbreak of war, many people lost their properties, and several respondents expressed concerns about the lack of reconstruction in the areas of return. The respondents from the South Sudanese FGDs also stated that there also are concerns about land confiscation from ethnic minorities in South Sudan. Some respondents noted that some refugees born in the Countries of Asylum do not know where they come from in their Countries of Origin and are concerned about where they will live and earn a living. These people need comprehensive information about the general situation in their Countries of Origin. The respondents also mentioned that the current flooding in South Sudan is also another concern and can be a hindrance to safe and dignified returns.

The respondents expressed the need to be given the right information on the conditions in their home countries for them to be able to make an informed decision on returns. Moreover, the respondents stated that there is need for security, peace, and stability both in the Country of Asylum and the Country of Origin and need to ensure that those who decide to voluntarily repatriate are given a priority to do so. The respondents also mentioned that there is need to ensure that those who will decide to remain in the Country of Asylum are protected by the government there and that they are given other durable solution options

such as local integration or resettlement. The respondents also said that there is a need to capacitate/ or conduct vocational training for refugees to have the necessary knowledge and skills for livelihood and self-reliance once they go back to their Country of Origin.

The respondents expressed that there is need to advocate for the prospects for some refugees for local integration with host community in the Country of Asylum if security, safety, and conducive and favorable protection environment is guaranteed. The respondents said that there is need for expanded livelihood activities to supplement 50% food cut in the countries of asylum. Most of the respondents stated that there is need to conduct "Go and See, Come and Tell" visit missions for refugees through their representatives in the respective areas of return in the countries of origin. This will enable the refugees to make a safer and informed decision on return. Some of the respondents mentioned that there is need for psychosocial and counselling support both in the Country of Asylum and the Country of Origin to cope with the past and current adversities, trauma, violence, and/or torture.

Capacities of refugees concerning returns

Some of the respondents stated that refugees, especially women, have skills in kitchen garden that they can use back in the Countries of Asylum to ensure food security. Another section of the respondents stated that some of the refugees have been assisted by the humanitarian agencies in the Countries of Asylum with vocational trainings that can enable them to use the skills developed for self-reliance in their home country.

Part of the respondents stated that some of the refugees acquired education in the Countries of Asylum and third countries through scholarships. This enabled them to develop the necessary knowledge and skills needed in the job market in their home country. The South Sudanese respondents stated that the peace agreement signed in 2018 under Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) initiative has given hope to many South Sudanese refugees. Some cross-border movements for some South Sudanese refugees have happened, to go and check the security situation and the implementation of the peace agreement, with expectations to return and restart their lives back home.

Majority of the respondents stated that men, women, and youth have the same needs that determine their intentions to stay or return, although there are a few respondents who said that they have different needs. The ones who said that men, women, and youth have different needs stated that men need jobs in order to fend for the needs of their families, youths need who have completed their studies need jobs and the ones who are still continuing with their studies need to continue with their studies and women need income-generating activities to support their families.

Majority of the respondents stated that men, women, and youth have different decision-making processes that determine their intentions to stay or return. A few respondents said that they have the same decision-making processes on returns. The respondents who said that men, women, and youth have different decision-making processes stated that men and youth have absolute power to decide on whether to return or not unlike women and persons with specific needs who are sometimes dependent on their husbands and close relatives. Men entirely make decisions for the entire family, relatives and persons under their care and responsibilities. Women depend on their spouses' decisions and cannot make independent decisions outside their spouses or relatives' spouses. Youth independently take decisions on their own

cognizant to the family members. Persons with Specific Needs depend entirely on the decision-making process of their caregivers, caretakers, and relatives.

Majority of the respondents stated that the decision-making processes is led by men as their communities are male-dominated societies. However, some respondents noted that decision-making on returns is very much an individual process and is not influenced by others in the family or the community. The respondents stated that most of the youth have no intention to return to their home country because majority of them are attending education in the Country of Asylum in order to change their life in future. The respondents mentioned that men do not want to go back to their Country of Origin due to the ongoing conflicts where they are perceived to be the main target by warring factions. The respondents also mentioned that women go back to the Country of Origin to see their elderly parents left there but then come back to the Country of Asylum.

3- Information needs and sources

Thematic objective: Document refugees' sources of information and identify gaps, to identify opportunities for improved information-sharing

The respondents stated the following as the information refugees need to make safer and informed decisions about returns: information on basic services available in their areas of such as health, education, livelihoods opportunities; the political and security situation; housing, land and property-related issues; the peace process taking place; and information on the assisted and organized voluntary repatriation when the situation in the Country of Origin is conducive and favorable for return.

The respondents stated that their main sources of information are social media (Facebook and Twitter, etc.), television, radio – local vernacular radio stations for the majority, refugee community leaders, religious leaders, political leaders in the country of origin, pendular movers, phone calls to relatives and friends in the countries of origin and army soldiers at the border points.

The respondents mentioned that the sources of information on returns that they trust are refugee leadership, UNHCR and its partners, governments and political leaders in the Country of Asylum and local media.

The Sudanese respondents stated that for the Sudanese refugees, there is the existence of hierarchical structure of SPLM-N in the camps which has the biggest influence on the decision-making processes of the refugees. The refugees exhibited high levels of allegiance and loyalty to the refugee community leaders and political leaders both in the Country of Origin and Country of Asylum who therefore play a big role in the decision-making process of refugees concerning returns.

The roles leaders play on returns

The respondents, both refugee leaders and refugees, stated that the refugee community leaders, political leaders back in the Country of Origin and political leaders in the Country of Asylum have an important role to play in the refugees' decision-making processes on return. The refugee community has a structure of leadership, and they feel that, if they were to return, they would want to return in an organized manner, and in coordination with their leadership, governments, and partners (agencies). Community leaders act as a bridge between leaders in the Country of Origin and refugees in the Country of Asylum and, more importantly, are perceived to be a legitimate source of information to the refugees enabling them to make informed decisions on return. They ensure that those who decide to voluntarily repatriate are given a priority to do so, and that those who will decide to remain in the Country of Asylum are protected by the government and given other durable solution options such as local integration. The refugee community leaders are seen to be at the forefront to disseminate right information regarding the availability of basic services and protection services provided in the Country of Origin. They ensure awareness creation on whether to return or not to return. They also nominate Go and See Visit representatives together with UNHCR and its Partner agencies who can raise awareness on the situation in the Country of Origin, so that the refugees can make informed decisions on returns. They facilitate the communication of information on returns, ensuring that messages reach everyone in the camps in the Country of Asylum. Therefore, there is need for leaders in the Country of Asylum and Origin to ensure good coordination between themselves on conditions in the Country of Origin for onward transmission to refugee populations.

4- Support needs

Thematic objective: Determine what type of assistance people may need in the places they go to stay in, to help design any return interventions

The respondents stated that the following are the ways the refugees will support themselves in case they return to their countries of origin: request to be supported by humanitarian agencies for some time until they are self-reliant, they will work to support themselves, those with vocational training would like to be supported by humanitarian agencies with start-up kits to start businesses. Some of the respondents stated that they would like to be supported to get jobs in the Country of Origin upon return, and some engage in agricultural activities in the Country of Origin.

Below is the testimony of one of the South Sudanese respondents on how they will support themselves in case they return to their country of origin:

> *"We don't know how we would support ourselves. Our country is fragile. There is nowhere to work. No health services, food supply, clothes. There is no way we could support ourselves. How can we think of going back and supporting ourselves when the country is being destroyed? We need everything. First, we need security. Then we need schools for our*

children. We also need health care and access to medications. We also need food supply. If these things are secured, we can return and support ourselves with agriculture. But if these things are not secured, we can't even think of returning. In addition, even if you provide us with our needs, if the environment we live in isn't secure we will live with insecurities/ without peace. Even if we are provided with the materials we won't live with comfort as long as the environment is not secure".

See also the below testimony of a South Sudanese urban refugee on how they will support themselves in case they return to their Country of Origin:

"We can work to support ourselves. You can provide us with something to do business with or a job. Because the money given to us monthly is not enough. We can work like everybody else. We come to the urban program with a reason. Some of us are here due to medical issues, protection issues or emergency issues. But the provision we get is very low. For example, the health issue, when somebody gets sick his/her blood is taken to a governmental hospital to get tested and by the time the results are back the person will be in a critical condition. The second one is that we are being treated in a health center when we should be treated in a higher-level hospital. The health care is very poor. The other one is about food security. Our monthly allowance is only for food. We don't have cloth allowance or house rental allowance. So, if it's possible, these things should be provided to us. (…) The school for our kids isn't proper. And regarding the medical issue, we are being treated in improper way and some people are not getting medical treatment at all nowadays. The other thing is the way we live and the food supply. Ten people live in one house. There are immature kids and mature kids living together. We are getting evicted by our landlords because of the number of people living in one place. There are also people who need protection. Some even got resettlement, but nobody is moving now. UNHCR is doing nothing. We can't go back to our country as there is no peace. We are stuck here in our country of asylum. (…) My point is that repatriation is a terrible solution. We came from South Sudan due to the problems in our country. We may return when the country is at peace. But in the process of repatriation, we need a delegate from our country to come with UNHCR staff to tell us that our homeland is at peace. We won't be in Ethiopia forever; we will return when our country finds peace. The second thing is, as many people have responded, no one is willing to go back home. Let me come to the life in Addis Ababa. As mentioned earlier there are people who have been in the urban program for 10-20 years. Many people have developed psychiatric illness. Ethiopia has been hosting us for many years. The problem is worldwide. Life is becoming very hard as the money allowance we get from UNHCR is not enough for house rent and shopping. What I need from you is to pass the information that refugees are suffering in Addis Ababa. The final aim of a refugee is resettlement. (…)"

Refugees need the following support in the countries of asylum and countries of origin on assistance, training, and information:

Support needed (in the Country of Asylum and Country of Origin)

The respondents stated that the support needed by the refugees both in the Country of Asylum and the Country of Origin are: information on entitlements and available services; information on peace and security; advocacy for local integration in the Country of Asylum for those who have protection concerns there and cannot return to the Country of Origin due to their profiles; expanded livelihood opportunities to supplement the 50% food cut in the countries of asylum; need to provide refugees with an opportunity for "Go and See" and "Come and Tell" Visits where representatives of the refugees in the Countries of Asylum are taken to go and see the conditions in their respective Country of Origin and return to the refugee camps

in the Country of Asylum to tell the refugees of the conditions in their home countries; and support on livelihoods opportunities and income-generating activities.

Majority of people with disability would need special consideration, e.g., provided with transportation, or some other assistance. There is need for psychosocial support and counselling to cope with past and current adversities, trauma, violence, and torture. Also need for support with basic services such as shelter, schools, and health facilities. Those willing to return need to be provided with tools for agriculture to support the skills that they can use upon returns to the Country of Origin for farming to enhance their food security. There is need to increase capacity building on vocational trainings to the youth who are in the camps to boost their skills for increased employment opportunities both in the Country of Asylum and the Country of Origin. The establishment of vocational trainings centers in both Country of Asylum and Country of Origin to help them improve their technical skills is also expressed.

To support their return to their home country, women will require seedlings and tools to support their work in agriculture, but also support and training and materials provision in handcraft activities. Specific to reproductive health, women and girls need specific health services in addition to dignity kits. Reproductive health services and supplementary food support which include pregnant and lactating women are important for mothers and children. Women also mentioned that vaccination provision for children is also needed in South Sudan, including start-up kits for them to building their houses, cooking their food, and fetching water.

The respondents also stated that communities in the refugee camps have been doing small scale farming, however, in the future, being in the Country of Origin or Country of Asylum, there is a need to introduce large-scale farming. This will enhance self-reliance in term of food security.

There is need to come up with peace building activities both in the Country of Origin and Country of Asylum to enhance peaceful co-existence between the refugees/returnees and the communities hosting them.

5- Concerns of Pendular movers

Thematic objective: Understand why refugees engage in pendular movements and any concerns they have that prevent them from returning permanently

The respondents stated that the majority of those who return to their home country and come back to the Country of Asylum do so for different reasons such as visiting family members and trading between the Country of Asylum and Country of Origin. Some pendular movers go to the Country of Origin to cultivate and harvest in their farms back home and then return to the Country of Asylum. Most of their expectations are linked to unverified information received about the return of peace in the Country of Origin. However, many noted that when they go to see the situation in their Country of Origin, they encounter ongoing conflict which precipitates their return to the Country of Asylum.

The respondents mentioned that others come back to the Country of Asylum after returning to their Country of Origin to get health services which are not available in their Country of Origin. Some pendular movers come back to the Country of Asylum for family reunification purpose. The lack of basic services in the

Country of Origin is one of the reasons why the pendular movers choose not to stay in their home country but instead return to the Country of Asylum where services are available and free of charge. Some return to the Country of Asylum for better livelihoods opportunities after facing difficulties in providing for themselves in the Country of Origin.

The respondents in Ethiopia stated that insecurity due to the ongoing war in northern Ethiopia makes life in the camps difficult and insecure. This is also exacerbated by the clashes within the refugee camps that sometimes lead to loss of lives. This is one of the reasons that makes pendular movers resort to going back to their home country and returning when things normalize in the refugee camps in the Country of Asylum.

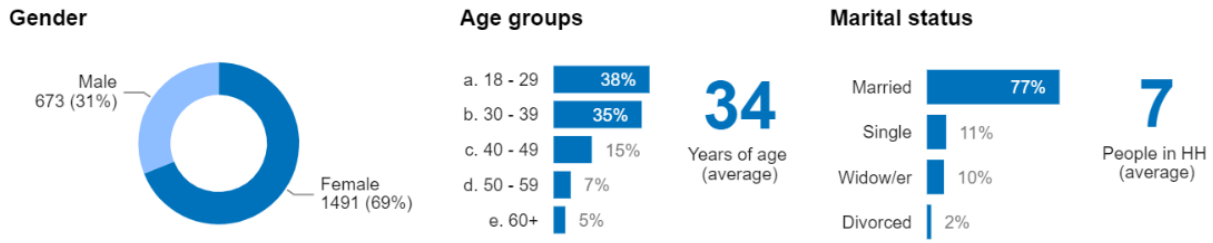
Country analysis

South Sudanese Caseload - Ethiopia

Demographics

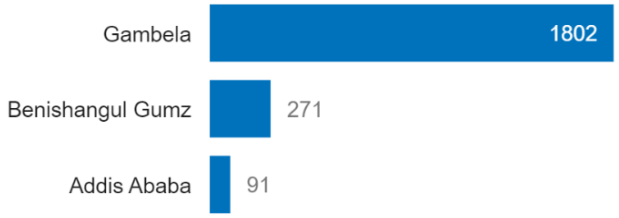
A total of **2,164** South Sudanese responded to the survey in Ethiopia.

Most of the respondents are female (69%), average 34 years of age and married (77%). The family is composed of an average of 7 members.

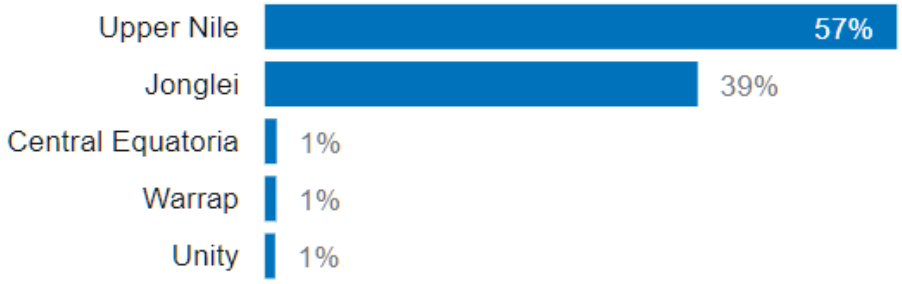


Location

Most interviews took place in Gambela (1802), followed by Benishangul Gumz (271) and Addis Ababa (91).

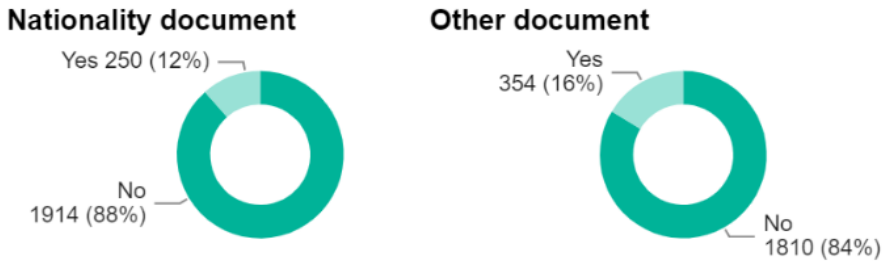


The South Sudanese interviewed in this exercise mostly come from the South Sudanese states neighboring Ethiopia, i.e., Upper Nile (57%) and Jonglei (39%).



Documentation

Very few respondents in Ethiopia do have access to a nationality document (12%) or another type of identity document (16%).



Of those who report they do not have a nationality document, most report having never applied for one (26%), leaving theirs in their country of origin (26%) or losing it (23%).

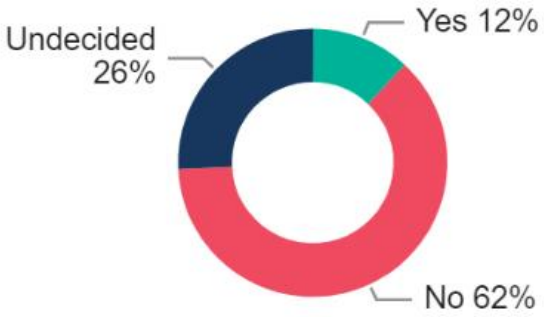
Of those who do report having a nationality document, 82% have a Nationality Card / Certificate, and 29% have a Nationality Card / Certificate receipt.

Reasons for flight

Respondents indicated their main reason for flight from South Sudan was generalized violence (67%), followed by an absence of livelihoods due to conflict (11%), an attack on their village/community (9%), and being in search of better education in the country of asylum (8%).

Intentions to return

General intentions to return



Some **62%** of respondents **do not intend to return** to South Sudan within the next 12 months. **The main reason for not intending to return is the fear of conflict renewal in South Sudan**, followed by a lack of education in the country of origin for themselves or their children, and the fact that their leaders have not yet recommended return.

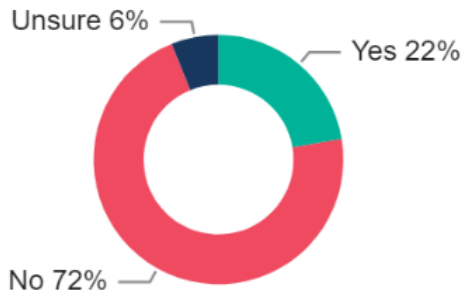
Some **12%** of respondents indicated they **do intend to return** to their country of origin within the next 12 months. **The main reasons are for family reunification because they are tired of living in asylum**, and insufficient food security in Uganda.

Respondents who are interested in returning to South Sudan would do so with all family (61%), while nearly a third of respondents (32%) would return alone, mostly to check on the situation (66%) before

bringing the rest of the family. **Almost half of the participants who intend to return (48%) planned on doing so within six to 12 months, and another 30% within four to six months**.

A **quarter of respondents** (26%) are **undecided on returning** to South Sudan within the next 12 months. Like those who are not planning to return, the main reason for their indecision is due to fear of a renewal of conflict. Those who were undecided also reported their families' specific needs, the current lack of safely and security in South Sudan and a lack of trust in the political process as other key reasons why they remain undecided.

Sufficient information to make informed decision on return

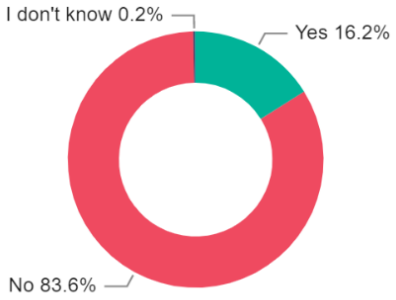


Over three quarters of respondents (78%) indicated they do not have or unsure they have sufficient information to make an informed decision about return. This group of respondents would like to have more information on access to services and rights, including food security, health, and education services, as well as information on the security and political situation.

The smaller group of participants who affirmed having enough information to decide on return (22%) stated that their main sources are their network of family, relatives, and friends, followed community leaders, then radio / print / TV media.

Involvement in discussions to return within the household

Most of the respondents (81.2%) reported they have not been involved in discussions on whether to return to South Sudan or not, with the remaining indicating they have been involved (11.4%) or partly involved (7.4%). Of those who have not been involved in discussions, only 9% indicated they plan to return to South Sudan in the next 12 months. This is compared to 16% of those partly involved in discussions, and 29% of those fully involved in discussions.



Returned within the previous 12 months

A small number of respondents (16%) indicated they or a family member has returned to South Sudan within the previous 12 months. Most had only returned once (74%) for family reasons.

Prospects for local integration / solutions

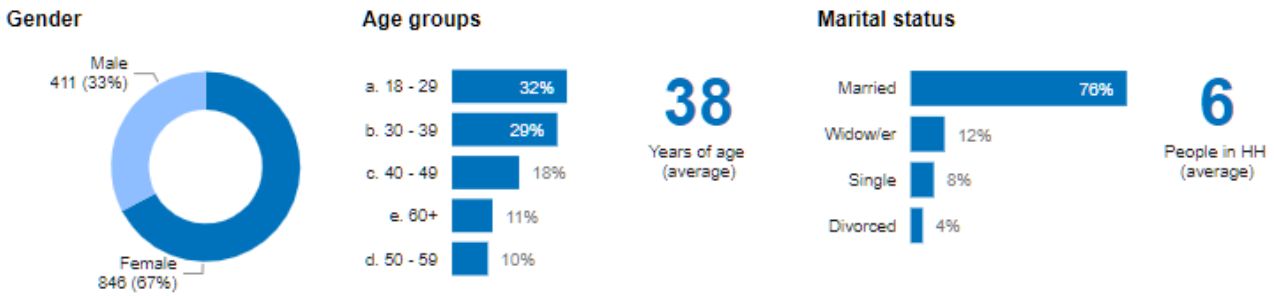
Many respondents have not acquired any education (53%) or job-related skills (65%) in Ethiopia. The main occupation of most respondents in their country of origin was in the area of agriculture and farming (32%), while more than half reported having no current occupation in Ethiopia (54%). Only 3% of respondents have a work permit or a business license, while the rest indicating they did not hold either (62%) or they did not need either (35%).

South Sudanese Caseload – Sudan

Demographics

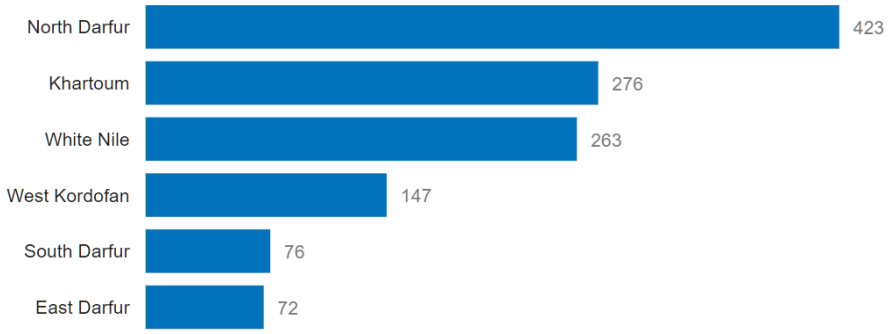
A total of **1,257** South Sudanese responded to the survey in Sudan.

Most of the respondents are female (67%), average 38 years of age and married (76%). The family is composed of an average of 6 members.

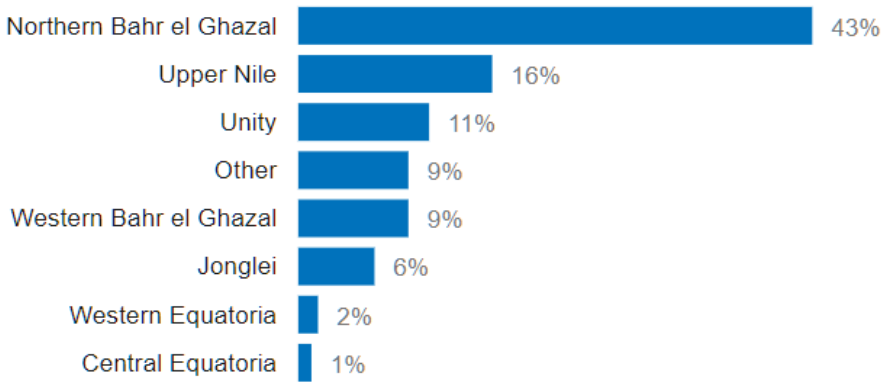


Location

Most interviews took place in North Darfur (423), followed by Khartoum (276) and White Nile (263).



The South Sudanese interviewed in this exercise mostly come from the Northern Bahr el Ghazal (43%) and Upper Nile (16%).



Documentation

A high number of respondents do not have access to a nationality document (87%) or to any other document (68%). Refugee IDs are the most common document possessed by respondents without access to nationality documents.

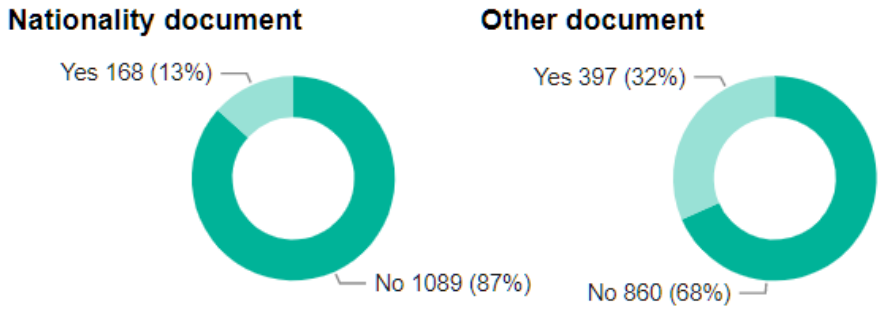


Figure 1 – Documentation

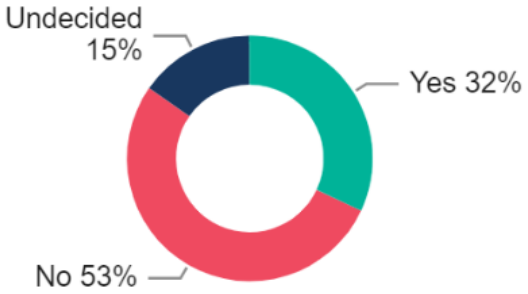
The small group of **South Sudanese who responded possessing a nationality document has mainly a nationality card / certificate (47%) or a national passport (30%)**. Within the group of respondents who do not have a nationality document, a considerable number of people (39%) responded that they have never applied to the nationality.

Reasons for flight

The main reason for flight from South Sudan was generalized violence (35%), followed by absence of livelihoods as result of conflict (26%) and food shortage / crop failure / drought (19%).

Intentions to return

General intentions to return

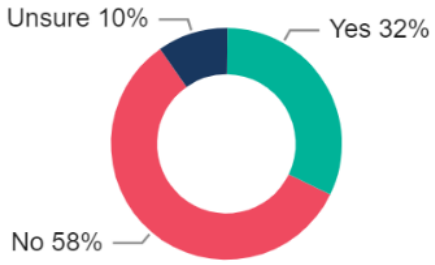


Over **half of the respondents** (53%) **do not intend to return** to South Sudan within the next 12 months. The **main reason for not intending to return is the fear of renewal of conflict**, followed by lack of livelihood / work opportunities.

Almost a **third of respondents** (32%), however, **demonstrated they do intend to return** to their country of origin within the next 12 months. The **main reasons are family reunification, work, and livelihood opportunities in Sudan**, and having sufficient resources to return. Respondents who are interested in returning to South Sudan would do so with all family (82%), including extended family members. One fifth (20%) indicated they would like to return already within the next three months.

Some respondents (15%) are **undecided on returning** to South Sudan within the next 12 months. The main reasons for this indecision are similar to the reasons of the respondents who do not intend to return, i.e., fear of renewal of conflict and lack of livelihoods / work opportunities, as well as inadequate health services.

Sufficient information to make informed decision on return



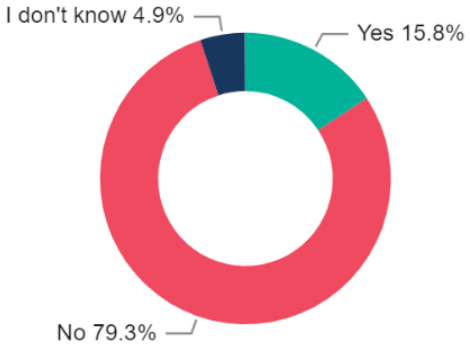
More than half of the participants (58%) reported they do not have enough information to make an informed decision regarding returns. This group of respondents would like to have more information on food security, livelihoods and work opportunities, health and education services, security, and political situation, among other areas.

The respondents that affirmed having enough information to decide on return (32%) stated that their main sources are their network of close family or friends and community leaders.

Involvement in discussions to return within the household

Many respondents (60%) reported they have not been involved in discussions on whether to return to South Sudan or not, with the remaining indicating they have been involved (31%) or partly involved (9%). Of those who have not been involved in discussions, only 18% indicated they plan to return to South Sudan in the next 12 months. This is compared to 32% of those partly involved in discussions, and 59% of those fully involved in discussions.

Returned within the previous 12 months



Almost four fifths of respondents have **not returned** to South Sudan within the previous 12 months. The small group of participants who have returned (16%) have returned mostly once (72%) and done so for family reasons.

Prospects for local integration / solutions

Most respondents have not acquired any formal education (75%) or job-related skills (64%) in Sudan. The main occupation of most respondents in their country of origin was in the area of agriculture and farming (39%); similarly, 41% of respondents indicated agriculture as their main occupation in Sudan.

Of those with a current occupation, 54% of respondents reported not needing a work permit or business license to exercise their current occupation in Sudan. Only 3% had a work permit of business license.

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Changes to refugee status - *specific to Sudan*

The present section covers the awareness and perception of respondents regarding Sudanese Nationality Law and practical implications of changes in refugee status.

Most of the respondents (84%) are not aware that the Nationality Law of Sudan allows some foreigners, including refugees, to access Sudanese nationality under certain requirements. **A low degree of interest in the law remained evident**, while just over a third of people within this group demonstrated interest in receiving more information about it (37%).

The few participants who were aware of the Nationality Law of Sudan (16%) point to a strong role that the community played in this process, referring to other fellow South Sudanese who had applied for nationality, as well as community leaders and friends.

Half of the respondents (50%) said they would not remain in Sudan in the future if they had an option to do so, while 34% and 16% of them would opt to remain and are undecided, respectively. Most of the respondents that are interested in staying would remain in their current location (63%).

When asked which kind of status they would like to have in Sudan, almost half (46%) pointed out to maintaining their refugee status, 28% are undecided, 23% would like to have Sudanese nationality, 3% would like to obtain an alternative legal status (to refugee status) such as residency like other non-refugee foreigners.

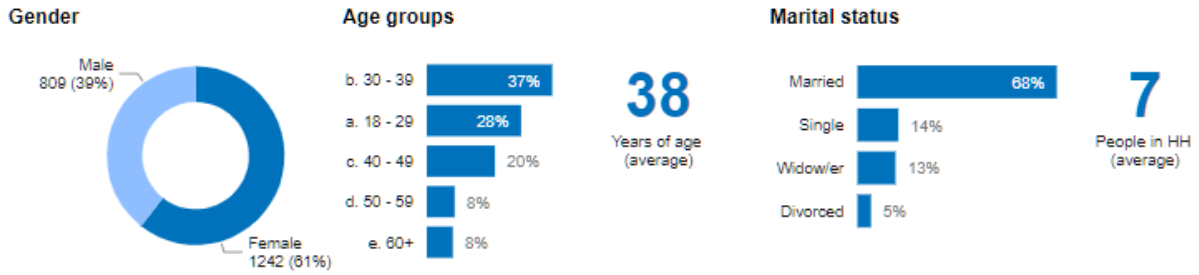
- For respondents who would like to have **Sudanese nationality over refugee status**: even though they are interested, most of them have not applied to the nationality yet (90%). The main reasons for this interest are the perception of an easier access to services (education and health) and housing, land, and property rights for refugees. A considerable number of respondents in this group are not aware (43%) that the Sudanese nationality would result in a loss of their current refugee status and the rights.
- In terms of the few respondents who would like to have an **alternative legal status instead of their current refugee status**, most of them stated to be aware of the legal implications of this change. The main reasons for this change are easier access to education and health services, followed by a perception of easier movement across borders and within the East African Community.

South Sudanese Caseload – Uganda[3]

Demographics

A total of **2,051** South Sudanese responded to the survey in Uganda.

Most of the respondents are female (61%), average 38 years of age and married (68%). The family is composed of an average of 7 members.

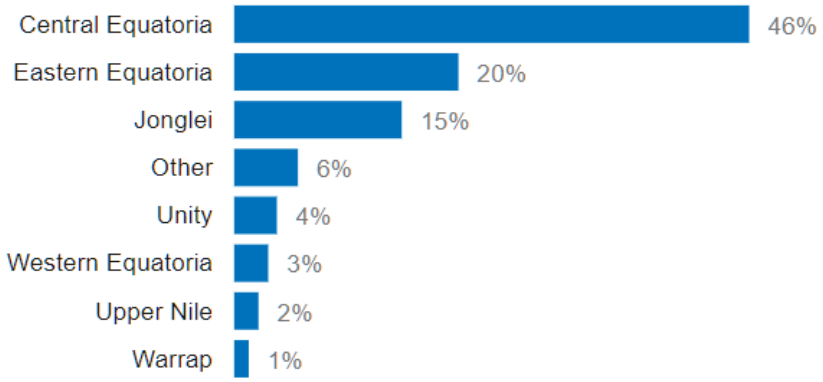


Location

Most interviews have taken place in Adjumani (325), followed by Kiryandongo (266), Imvepi (259), and Rhino (250).

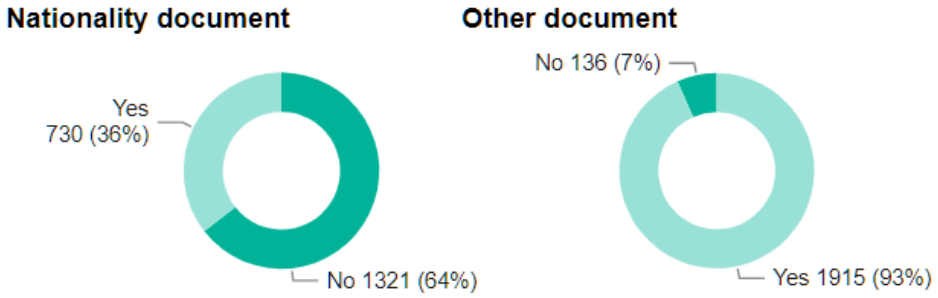
[3] The method of data collection was telephone calls in Uganda.

The South Sudanese interviewed in this exercise mostly come from the South Sudanese states neighboring Uganda, i.e., Central Equatoria (46%) and Eastern Equatoria (20%).



Documentation

64% of respondents do not have access to a nationality document, while most possess another type of document (93%), such as family attestation letters and refugee IDs.



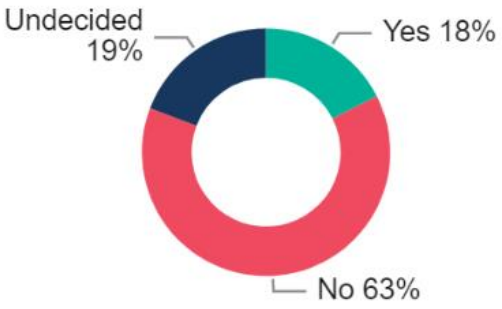
Of **those who reported they had a nationality document, most (73%) have a national identify card** while a few have passports (15%). In the group of respondents who do have a nationality document, about half (52%) have not applied for it, while a quarter (24%) reported having lost the document or left it in South Sudan (9%).

Reasons for flight

The main reason for flight from South Sudan was generalized violence (84%), followed by attack in the village / community (12%). Most of the respondents (97%) had reasons to flee related to violence, including generalized violence, attack in the community or individually attacked and fear of recruitment from armed forces.

Intentions to return

General intentions to return

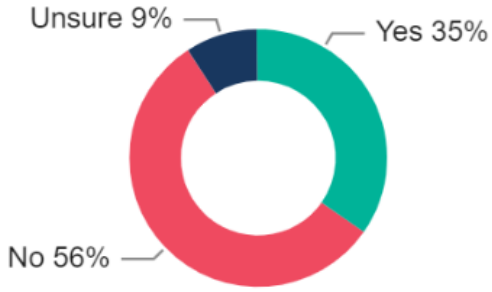


Nearly **two third of respondents** (63%) **do not intend to return** to South Sudan within the next 12 months. The **main reason for not intending to return is the lack of safety and security** or the fear of conflict renewal in their country of origin.

Close to **one in five respondents** (18%) demonstrated they **do intend to return** to their country of origin within the next 12 months. The **main reasons are insufficient food security and food assistance in Uganda and a perception of improvement in the security situation in South Sudan**. Respondents who are interested in returning to South Sudan would do so with all family (67%), including extended family members, while a considerable number of respondents (30%) would return alone, mostly to check on the situation (86%) before bringing the rest of the family. One third of the participants who intend to return (32%) planned on doing so within the three upcoming months.

The remaining respondents (19%) are **undecided on returning** to South Sudan within the next 12 months. The main reasons for this indecision are similar to the reasons of the respondents who do not intend to return, i.e., lack of safety and security, fear of renewal of conflict, as well as a lack of trust in the political processes.

Sufficient information to make informed decision on return



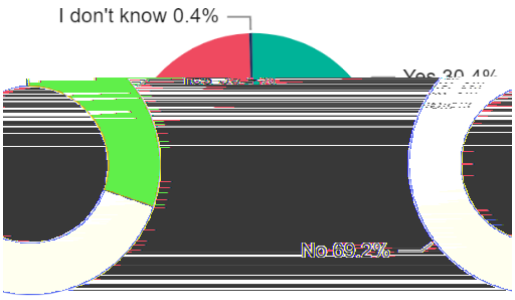
More than half of the participants (56%) indicated that they do not have enough information to make an informed decision regarding returns. This group of respondents would like to have more information mostly on the security and political situation of South Sudan.

The smaller group of participants who affirmed having enough information to decide on return (35%) stated that their main sources are their network of family, relatives, and friends both in South Sudan and Uganda.

Involvement in discussions to return within the household

Most of the respondents (72%) reported they have not been involved in discussions on whether to return to South Sudan or not, with the remaining indicating they have been involved (22%) or partly involved (6%). Of those who have not been involved in discussions, only11% indicated they plan to return to South Sudan in the next 12 months. This is compared to 27% of those partly involved in discussions, and 34% of those fully involved in discussions.

Returned within the previous 12 months



Almost one in every three respondents have returned to South Sudan within the previous 12 months. Most of them have returned mostly once (63%) for family reasons.

Prospects for local integration / solutions

Most respondents have not acquired any education (54%) or job-related skills (73%) in Uganda. The main occupation of most respondents in their country of origin was in the area of agriculture and farming (34%), while close to half reported having no current occupation in Uganda (51%).

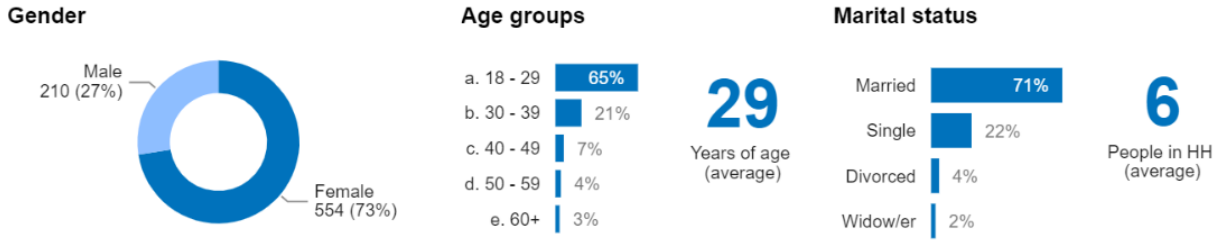
Of those with a current occupation, 85% of respondents reported not needing a work permit to exercise their current occupation in Uganda.

Sudanese caseload - Ethiopia

Demographics

A total of **764** Sudanese responded to the survey in Ethiopia.

Most of the respondents are female (73%), average 29 years of age and married (71%). The family is composed of an average of 6 members.



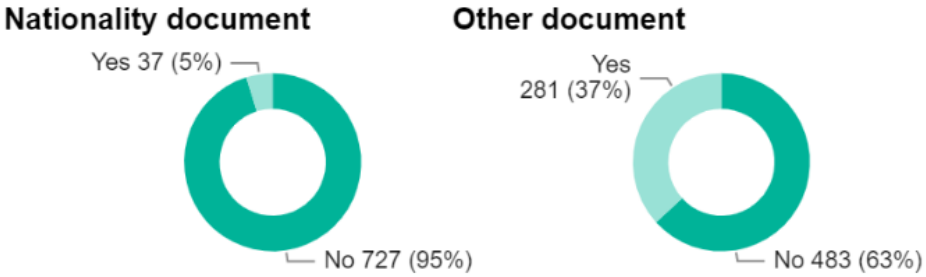
Location

Most interviews have taken place in Benishangul Gumz. Enumerators faced ongoing challenges reaching respondents in Addis Ababa.

The Sudanese interviewed in this exercise mostly come from Blue Nile State (97.6%), which neighbors Ethiopia.

Documentation

Most respondents do not have access to a Sudanese nationality document (95%). Some 37% of respondents possess another type of document, such as refugee IDs and school certificates. Of those who report they do not have a nationality document, most report having never applied for one or not knowing how to apply for one.

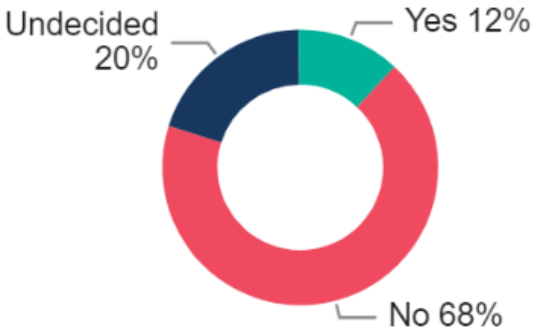


Reasons for flight

Respondents indicated **their main reason for flight from Sudan was due to an absence of livelihood due to conflict (70%)**, followed by generalized violence (13%) or an attack in their village / community (12%).

Intentions to return

General intentions to return



Some **68% of respondents do not intend to return** to Sudan within the next 12 months. The **main reasons for not planning to return is the fear of renewal of conflict in Sudan**, the lack of safety and security and fear of harm due to their specific needs or profile.

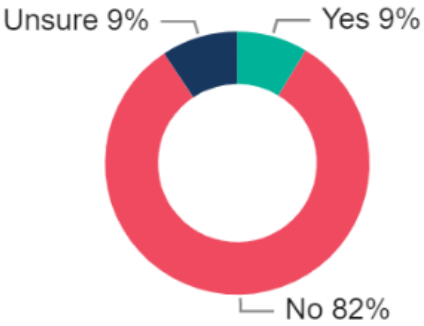
Some 12% of respondents indicated they **do intend to return** to their country of origin within the next 12 months. The **main reasons are family reunification, having sufficient resources to do so, and being**

tired of living in asylum. Those who are planning to return reported they would do so with all their family (65%), their extended family (24%) or alone (11%). The majority indicated they would return to their place of origin (63%). Only 4% plan to return in the next three months, with most reporting they plan to return after eleven months (47%) or between seven and eleven months (33%).

One in five respondents are **undecided on returning** to Sudan within the next 12 months. The main reasons given for this indecision is fear of renewal of conflict, lack of trust in the political process, fear of harm due to their specific needs or profile and lack of safety and security.

Sufficient information to make informed decision on return

Four in every five respondents reported they do not have enough information to make an informed decision regarding returns. This group of respondents would like to have more information mostly on the security and political situation in Sudan, as well as the food security situation.

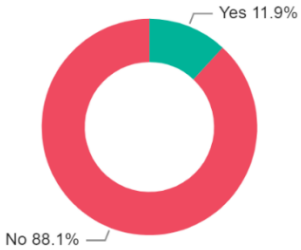


The smaller group of participants who affirmed having enough information to decide on return (9%) stated that their main sources are their network of family, relatives, and friends, followed by community leaders.

Involvement in discussions to return within the household

Most of the respondents (83%) reported they have not been involved in discussions on whether to return to Sudan or not, with the remaining indicating they have been involved (16%) or partly involved (1%). Of those who have not been involved in discussions, only 9% indicated they plan to return to Sudan in the next 12 months. This is compared to 0% of those partly involved in discussions, and 30% of those fully involved in discussions.

Returned within the previous 12 months



Close to 12% of respondents have **returned** to Sudan within the previous 12 months. Most of them have returned mostly once (69%), the majority for family reasons.

Prospects for local integration / solutions

The main occupation of most respondents when they lived in Sudan was in the area of agriculture and farming (53%), while just over half reported having no current occupation in Ethiopia (51%).

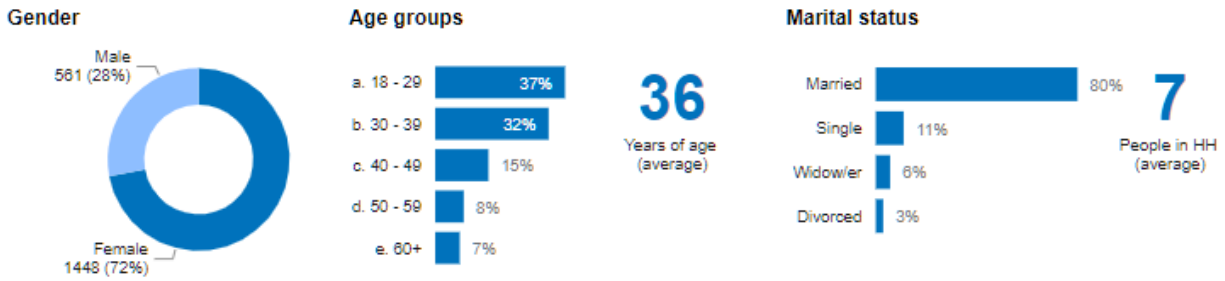
Only 1.6% of respondents have a work permit or a business license, while the rest indicating they did not hold either (52.6%) or they did not need either (45.8%).

Sudanese caseload – South Sudan

Demographics

A total of **2,009** Sudanese responded to the survey in South Sudan.

Most of the respondents are female (72%), average 36 years of age and married (80%). The family is composed of an average of 7 members.



Location[4]

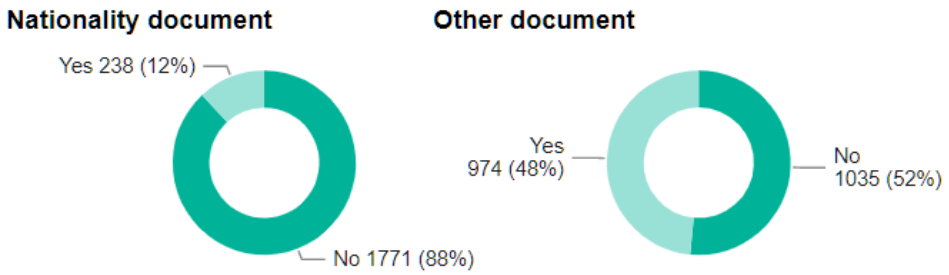
Most interviews have taken place in Maban (1,125), followed by Pariang (725), and Juba (159).

The Sudanese interviewed in this exercise mostly come from the states of Blue Nile (57%) and South Kordofan (43%).

[4] Doro refugee camp was excluded from the original sampling following community decision to not take part in the exercise. The decision was based on refusal to discuss about returns due to the political positioning as not being part of the peace agreement in Sudan.

Documentation

A high number of respondents do not have access to a nationality document (88%), while close to half possess another type of document (48%), mainly refugee IDs.



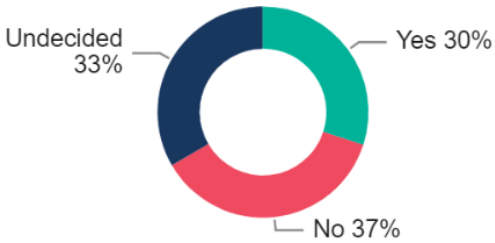
Within the group of respondents who do not have a nationality document, a considerable number of people responded that they have never applied to the nationality (28%) and that they do not know how to apply for it (21%).

Reasons for flight

The main reason for flight from Sudan was generalized violence (67%), followed by an absence of livelihoods due to conflict (11%), an attack on their village/community (9%) and search for better education in the country of asylum (8%).

Intentions to return

General intentions to return

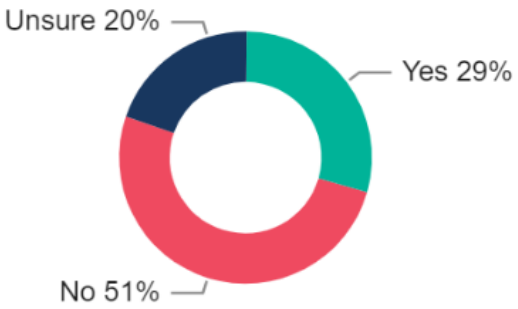


Some **37% of respondents do not intend to return** to Sudan within the next 12 months. The **main reasons for not intending to return is the fear of conflict renewal, lack of education prospects for oneself or children**, the fact their leaders have not yet recommended return, and a lack of trust in the political process.

At the same time, 30% of the respondents demonstrated they **do intend to return** to Sudan within the next 12 months. **The main reasons are family reunification, being tired of living in asylum** and the perception of more work / livelihood opportunities in Sudan. Respondents who are interested in returning to South Sudan would do so with all family (89%), including extended family members. Some 26% of the respondents who intend to return planned on doing so within the three upcoming months.

One in every three respondents (33%) are **undecided on returning** to Sudan within the next 12 months. The main reasons for the high rate of indecision are similar to the reasons of the respondents who do not intend to return, i.e., fear of renewal of conflict, lack of trust in the political process and the fact their leaders have not yet recommended return.

Sufficient information to make informed decision on return

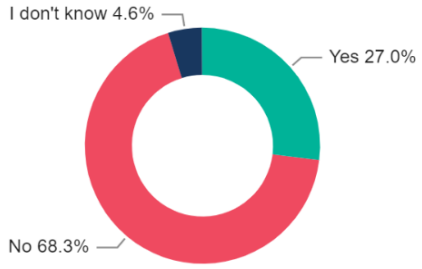


A little more than **half of the participants (51%) reported that they do not have enough information to make an informed decision regarding returns**, while 20% are unsure on their level of information, which accounts of 71% of the respondents. Among those, the most-relevant information sought regards food security and education services, followed by health services and the security and political in Sudan.

The smaller group of participants (29%) who affirmed having enough information to decide on return stated that their main sources are their community leaders, followed by family and friends.

Involvement in discussions to return within the household

Most of the respondents (65%) reported they have not been involved in discussions on whether to return to Sudan or not, with the remaining indicating they have been involved (29%) or partly involved (5%) (figures do not add to 100% due to rounding). Of those who have not been involved in discussions, only 22% indicated they plan to return to Sudan in the next 12 months. This is compared to 24% of those partly involved in discussions, and almost half (49%) of those fully involved in discussions.



Returned within the previous 12 months

Slightly more than one in every four respondents (27%) have **returned** to Sudan within the previous 12 months. Most of them have returned only once (75%), for family reasons.

Prospects for local integration / solutions

Most respondents have not acquired any education (55%) or job-related skills (60%) in South Sudan. The main occupation of most respondents in their country of origin was in the area of agriculture and farming (53%), while currently in South Sudan most reported having either no occupation (38%) or working with agriculture and farming (30%).

Recommendations

The Regional Intentions Survey sought to gain a realistic understanding of refugees' intentions to return to Sudan and South Sudan and allow these intentions and expectations to inform the long-term implementation of durable solutions plans and strategies. Based on the findings of the survey, **many South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees do not wish to return to their Countries of Origin in the foreseeable future**, and thus Countries of Asylum, UNHCR and partners should remain **prepared to support the protection, humanitarian, and development needs of both populations across the region**. At the same time, some households may wish to return and therefore, Countries of Asylum as well as South Sudan and Sudan should continue to enhance efforts to strengthen **planning, protection interventions, and programming to ensure adequate preparation for such potential returns**.

Understanding the needs, concerns, and expectations of Sudanese and South Sudanese is a key part of any durable solutions strategy, and vital to ensuring that refugees can take an active role in shaping their futures. The intentions survey data will enable UNHCR and its partners to better integrate the concerns and requirements of potential returnees into durable solutions strategies and ensure refugees' concerns are factored into current and future plans, strategies and programming in both Countries of Origin and Countries of Asylum.

Durable solutions are underscored by the freedom of choice and full participation by refugees in any decision process regarding the range of possibilities. The voluntary nature of returns and the necessity of favourable conditions within Sudan and South Sudan for sustainable repatriation and reintegration define a truly durable solution. Options that respond to the needs expressed by refugees will have a greater chance of sustainability. The difference in refugees' intent to return across the different categories surveyed underscores the necessity for developing differentiated approaches, and flexible options to address the range of different expectations and needs that were captured in the results.

As the region plans for the voluntary return of refugees, swift action is required for those intending to return soon. Meanwhile, state building and peacebuilding efforts, alongside initiatives to restore housing and determine employment or livelihood opportunities for those who do not intend to return at this time, is also important to consider in longer-term planning. Engagement with the Sudanese and South Sudanese people and refugees remains an essential part of the process to ensure that durable solutions meet refugees' needs and expectations.

The following are some key recommendations generated from the interviews of the FGDs and KIIs, lessons learnt, and challenges encountered in the Intentions Survey exercise:

1- Recognising that the intentions, needs and concerns of refugees with respect to returns and reintegration may vary at different points in time, across particular categories, and are often dependent on access to information and perceptions about conditions in areas of return, establish systems that facilitate regular monitoring of the intentions to return of South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees

Suggested actions:

- Conduct regular intentions surveys at regular intervals.
- Include intentions surveys in planning and budgeting within the OL.
- Ensure Senior Management, Government, and partner support for these activities.
- To the extent possible, adopt a regional or situational approach to intentions surveys, in coordination with the Regional Bureau to ensure comparable data and facilitate cross border planning and implementation.

2- Respond to the need for adequate and updated information on relevant topics and themes and ensure efficient dissemination in order to enhance the foundation for refugees to make informed decisions on return

Suggested actions:

- Use standardized tools developed by the Regional Bureau for Operations such as Areas of Return Information Sheets to develop contextualised information brochures and provide counseling to refugees on conditions in countries in origin.
- Utilize appropriate information channels, for example those cited by refugees (social media, community leaders). Be aware of positive role community leaders can play but also their potential position as "gatekeepers" and mitigate against factors that may compromise decision-making and consequently affect the voluntariness to return.
- Organize information sessions in refugee camps at the community level and provide opportunities for individual counseling through repatriation help desks.
- Organize Go and See and Come and Tell Visits for a selection of refugees including, but not limited to, representatives and community leaders.
- Produce comprehensive and regularly updated mapping of service provision and service providers in high areas of return/ main areas of return. Ensure specific and age and gender appropriate information is available for persons with specific needs, minority ethnic groups, women, and youth to address their needs and ensure information can be accessed by persons who are not traditionally decision-makers in male-dominated societies.

3- Enhance efforts to engage development and private sector actors to invest in basic services and build the capacity of local authorities and service providers in high areas of return

Suggested actions:

- Reinforcing the participation of new and different actors will support and strengthen the creation of conditions conducive to sustainable reintegration in Countries of Origin, since humanitarian actors do not have the capacity to invest sufficiently in infrastructure or service provision in areas of return.
- Continue to strengthen the capacity of Government at the national and local level to address the unique circumstances of returning refugees. This could include facilitating further opportunities for national and local authorities to visit refugees in countries of asylum and speak directly with refugees as appropriate.
- Enhance cross-border coordination between agencies and organizations working in Countries of Origin and Countries of Asylum to ensure information is shared in a timely manner and common challenges are addressed under a common strategy that provides for both development and humanitarian interventions in support of durable solutions.

4- Ensure the diverse needs and experiences of refugees are recognised in any planning process and work closely with relevant stakeholders in both countries of asylum and countries of origin to address these, including by facilitating the meaningful engagement refugees in all aspects of planning for voluntary repatriation and reintegration

Suggested actions:

- Engage refugees from the planning stage to the reintegration activities in their respective areas of origin/ return.
- Ensure that particular attention is paid to the concerns of persons with specific needs, minority ethnic groups, women, youth, and others through specialized support made available in the Country of Origin.
- Provide more flexible solutions options, such as facilitating labour mobility or possibilities for long term legal stay in Countries of Asylum in relation with refugees' exceptional needs due to their profiles.
- UNHCR should work with governments in Countries of Asylum to ensure that refugees from Sudan and South Sudan in need of international protection continue to exercise their right to asylum in accordance with national and international laws. Their protection and assistance needs should remain of primary focus, and they shall be protected from all measures that may induce less than voluntary return movements to their Countries of Origin.

5- Create an enabling environment in Sudan and South Sudan for access to education and livelihood opportunities, considering skills acquired by refugees during displacement, along with other employment activities and opportunities in Countries of Origin

Suggested actions:

- Determine whether there is either a lack of interest by refugees, or interest but lack of availability of training services, and others, and plan for support in providing more of these services.
- Ensure academic and/or professional certifications received in Countries of Asylum are recognised in Countries of Origin. Facilitate bridging classes in Countries of Origin - in particular language courses - to ease integration into local school systems.
- Give consideration to the provision of language classes in Countries of Origin for refugees originating from countries with different language of instruction.
- Provide direct assistance for refugees to set up immediate livelihood and employment opportunities according to their needs – including the provision of seeds, agricultural tools, and livestock in Countries of Origin. Identify and support vulnerable populations in areas of return through an area-based approach to prevent conflict and ensure social cohesion.
- Organize skills mapping in Countries of Origin to ensure that vocational trainings provided in Countries of Asylum are aligned and meet the job market needs and opportunities available
- Strengthen cross-border livelihoods programming between UNHCR, Government authorities and development and private sector actors
- Systematize the update of proGres database in the Countries of Asylum with the various skills of both refugee populations in the region to better inform the livelihood interventions required in the two Countries of Origin

6- Address any barriers pertaining to issues of Housing, Land and Property (HLP) in Countries of Origin

Suggested actions:

- Ensure that provisions are made for refugees willing to repatriate to access national identity documentation as well as legal title documentation, documentation of ownership or right to use, prior to or immediately upon return, including through the provision of legal aid/ assistance to facilitate this process.
- Ensure that administrative structures, processes, and capacities are in place in the Countries of Origin to address and resolve issues of land allocation, documentation, compensation, HLP-related conflict resolution mechanisms, adjudication and restitution, affordable housing and secure tenure in urban and rural areas, regularization of tenure and access to utilities and social amenities; Facilitate access to legal aid/ assistance to enable returnees to access and navigate these administrative structures and processes.
- Establish transparent verification and dispute settlement mechanisms to enforce the terms of settlement and prevent any potential clashes, in particular between returnees and communities in areas of return.

Acknowledgements

The Regional Bureau for East, Horn of Africa, and Great Lakes wishes to extend its deepest appreciation to all participants who took part in the Regional Intentions Survey for their valuable contributions during the entire Intentions Survey planning and design process, inputs, implementation, and systematization of data captured in all the five thematic areas. Thanks also should go to UNHCR Heads of Units in the Country Operations, for providing staff members who made the data collection and sharing possible. Many thanks also to the data collectors in all the four Country Operations - Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda - that undertook the Intentions Survey. Special mention and to all the respondents who participated in the exercise for their inputs, contribution, and response. Special thanks also to all the Facilitators who coordinated the whole process and all the staff in the Country Operations who were involved in any manner on the overall coordination of the 2021/2022 Regional Intention Survey exercise for South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees in the EHAGL region.

Contacts

The Regional Intentions Survey of Sudanese and South Sudanese report was produced by the UNHCR Regional Bureau EHAGL. For more information, please contact:

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Annex

Methodology

The Regional Intentions Survey employed a **mixed-method approach** to the research, comprising both qualitative and quantitative components.

The **quantitative** component consisted of a survey administered in person or remotely (by phone) at the individual level. The interview used KoBo Toolbox for data collection and averaged 45 minutes. All participating countries used the same baseline questionnaire. In addition, UNHCR's office in Sudan applied country-specific questions in the end of the interview, mostly related to refugees' awareness and perceptions of the Sudanese Nationality Law.

The **sampling approach** aimed to generate a random and representative sample of the overall population of South Sudan and Sudan refugees in four countries of asylum i.e., Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia and South Sudan, with 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error. The representative sample of the population was calculated based on the number of registered households, not the number of individuals. The total number of households was obtained from UNHCR's registration database, proGres. The specific households to be surveyed were then identified using systematic random sampling until the sample size was attained for each location. Then, one individual respondent from the identified households will be selected through simple random sampling. The respondent spoke on their own behalf and not on behalf of the household.

In order to adapt to COVID-19-related protocols, both in-person and remote data collection were possible. Most countries collected data in person, with enumerators asking the questions face-to-face to respondents, except for Uganda. In this country, enumerators interviewed respondents over phone calls, entering their answers into KoBo Toolbox. It is important to note that the interview mode might affect respondents' answers particularly to sensitive questions.

Country	Total Refugee Households (October 2021)	Sample Size	Sample reached
South Sudanese Refugees			
Ethiopia	78,688	2,796	2,164
Sudan	88,058	692	1,257
Uganda	182,821	2,181	2,051
TOTAL	**349,567**	**5,669**	**5,472**
Sudanese Refugees			
Ethiopia	10,356	666	764
South Sudan	59,892	1,889	2,009
TOTAL	**70,248**	**2,555**	**2,773**

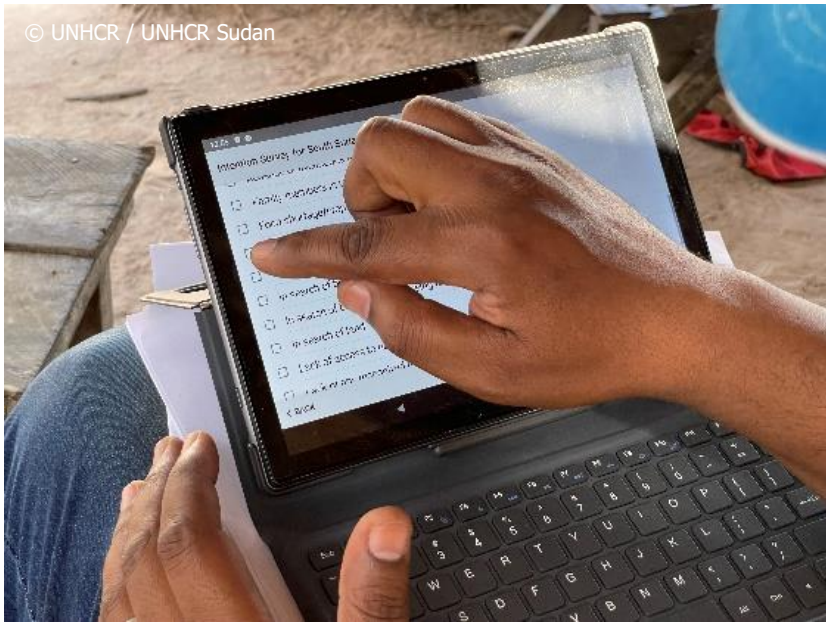
The **qualitative** component was comprised by KIIs and FGDs. The qualitative assessment process was conducted in all the identified locations in the four Country Operations and the targeted groups included Refugee community leaders, UNHCR and Partners staff working on protection and voluntary repatriation in the respective Country Operations. The regional guidance established minimum criteria for the research:

- **FGDs**: A minimum of 3 FGDs per country ensuring the inclusion of men, women, youth, and persons with specific needs through an Age, Gender, and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) approach: one with men only, one with women only and one with mixed genders of refugees who have returned to their places of origin or habitual place of residence in the past (12) twelve months.
- **KIIs**: Targeted individuals who have particularly informed perspectives on the topics, locations and population groups assessed, i.e., expert stakeholders, refugees, and refugee community leaders, selected based on their perceived knowledge of sectoral and cross-sectoral themes related to migrants and refugees and lived experiences of the issues facing refugees. A minimum of 2 KIIs per country, one with a refugee community leader or representative (including minority groups leaders or persons perceived to represent a specific community and to be able to speak on behalf of it) and one with a relevant specialist in fields related to migration, protection, child protection, including Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) Focal Points and/or Protection Officers.

The qualitative research followed a purposive sampling to select the respondents of both FGDs and KIIs. In some instances, country offices used a snow-balling sampling technique to identify key informant respondents with referrals/ help of refugee communities. Offices used a template for data collection (see Annex) conducted either in-person or remotely.

For both data collection exercises, children below 18 years of age were excluded due to the target population of the assessment being 18 years and above. Prior to commencing data collection, the informed consent was sought verbally from each respondent. Participation was on a voluntary basis.

The process of data cleaning, processing and analysis was centralized at the regional level, with participation and feedback of Country Operations. Due to COVID-19 related protocols, the survey was conducted through telephone interviews for the FGDs and KIIs across all the locations in all the country operations using the questionnaires developed by the Multi-Functional Team at the RB. The views of the FGDs and KIIs on the different themes were analyzed and used to come up with the regional analysis. The quantitative data was analyzed by DIMA staff using Excel and PowerBI to produce descriptive statistics. The qualitative data was analyzed by DSU staff using Microsoft Excel/Word to conduct thematic analysis.



Quantitative research: questionnaire

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The enumerator will select the answer(s) that best matches the answer(s) provided by the respondent but will not read them to the respondent. In general, a maximum of 3 answers can be selected in multiple choice questions. The enumerator will read the consent script to the respondent before asking for consent. The respondents will be over 18, but not necessarily the head of their household (follow-up question). ***Instructions in purple*** indicate changes in the skip logic. Bullet points in circle (●) are for single-choice questions and in squares (▢) are for multiple-choice questions.

IDENTIFICATION AND CONSENT

Country of Asylum (CoA)

CoA Location Level 1 [list from proGres]

CoA Location Level 2 [list from proGres]

CoA Location Level 3 [list from proGres]

A) Do you give consent to participate in this Survey?

- Yes ***– proceed with the survey***
- No ***– do not proceed***

B) Are you the Focal Point (Head of Household)?

- Yes
- No

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1) Basic demographic information

1.1 Age of respondent
1.2 Ethnic group
1.3 Gender
1.4 How many people are living with you as a family in the CoA including yourself?
1.5 Marital Status

- Single never married
- Married
- Divorced
- Widow / Widower
- Co-habiting
- Other

1.6 Place of origin [list from proGres]
1.6.1 Origin State
1.6.2 Origin County
1.6.3 Origin Payam

REASON/S FOR FLIGHT

2) What was your main reason for flight?

Choose only the main reason in this question. Please record additional reasons in the next question. If more than one flight, consider the last one.

- Generalized violence
- My village/community was attacked
- Individually attacked/threatened
- Food shortage/crop failure/drought
- In search of better education in country of asylum
- To avoid/fear of recruitment by armed forces/groups
- In search of better health services in country of asylum
- In search of better shelter/housing facilities in country of asylum
- In search of land
- Absence of livelihoods
- Family members in country of asylum
- Other reasons (***Specify***)

3) What was/were your other reason/s for flight?

Choose only the main reason in this question. Please record additional reasons in the next question. If more than one flight, consider the last one.

- ☐ Generalized violence
- ☐ My village /community was attacked
- ☐ Individually attacked/threatened
- ☐ Food shortage/crop failure/drought
- ☐ To avoid/fear of recruitment by armed forces/groups
- ☐ In search of better education in country of asylum
- ☐ In search of better health services country of asylum
- ☐ In search of better shelter/housing facilities in country of asylum
- ☐ In search of land
- ☐ Absence of livelihoods
- ☐ Family members in country of asylum
- ☐ Lack of any recognized nationality
- ☐ Lack of access to nationality documentation from CoO

- ☐ Other reasons (***Specify***)
- ☐ No other reason given

4) Was this the first time you fled your Country of Origin (CoO)?

- Yes
- No

DOCUMENTATION

5) Do you have any nationality document from your CoO?

- Yes – ***proceed to 5.1***
- No – ***proceed to 5.2***

5.1 If YES, select all that apply

- ☐ Nationality Card
- ☐ National Passport
- ☐ Receipt / Acknowledge of receipt for a nationality card
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Other ***(Specify)***

Proceed to 6.0

5.2 If NO, why?

- ☐ Never applied
- ☐ Did not know how to apply for it
- ☐ Did not have the pre-requisite documentation for the application to nationality certificate
- ☐ Applied for nationality certificate, but never received response
- ☐ Applied for nationality certificate, but application rejected
- ☐ No money to apply for it / was asked to pay for the document
- ☐ Lost it/them
- ☐ Not offered / not available
- ☐ Do not know
- ☐ Left it in CoO
- ☐ Other reasons ***(Specify)***

6) Do you have any other document in your possession?

- Yes – ***proceed to 6.1***
- No – ***proceed to 7.0***

6.1 If YES, select all that apply:

- ☐ National passport by country of asylum
- ☐ National passport by a Third Country (not CoA or CoO)
- ☐ Naturalization Certificate from country of asylum
- ☐ National ID
- ☐ Refugee ID
- ☐ Family attestation letters
- ☐ Asylum seekers certificates
- ☐ Alien Cards (Country of Asylum)
- ☐ Residence Permit (Country of Asylum)
- ☐ Birth certificate from CoO
- ☐ Birth certificate of parents
- ☐ Birth notification from CoO
- ☐ Marriage certificate
- ☐ Divorce certificate
- ☐ Driver's license
- ☐ School certificates (Primary, secondary, and professional certificates)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Other document(s) ***(Specify)***

INTENTIONS TO RETURN

7) Have you been/are you involved in the discussion on whether to return to CoO?

As opposed to someone else in the Household deciding for you

- Yes – ***proceed to 7.1***
- Partly – ***proceed to 7.1***
- No – ***proceed to 7.4***

7.1 Do you believe you have sufficient information about the intended area of return to make an informed decision regarding return?

- Yes ***– proceed to 7.2***
- No ***– proceed to 7.1.1***
- I am not sure ***– proceed to 7.1.1***

7.1.1 If NO / UNSURE – What additional information do you require?

- ☐ Information on assistance provided to returnees
- ☐ Information on the security and political situation
- ☐ Information/contact with my family, their whereabouts and how to reach them
- ☐ Information about the status of my properties (land, belongings)
- ☐ Information about health services
- ☐ Information about water services
- ☐ Information about electricity services
- ☐ Information about transportation services
- ☐ Information about communication services

- ☐ Information about food security
- ☐ Information about support for reintegration
- ☐ Information about livelihoods/ work opportunities
- ☐ Information about education services
- ☐ Information about access/eligibility on Nationality Card
- ☐ Information about the recognition and/or validation of documentation issued in the country of asylum (i.e., marriage certificate, birth certificate, education certificates, excluding nationality card)
- ☐ Information on the tax and registration of movable properties (vehicles, motorbikes, etc.)
- ☐ Other ***(Specify)***

Proceed to 7.3

7.2 Who/what are your sources of information on the situation in your place of origin or habitual residence?

- ☐ I have visited there from time to time
- ☐ My family has visited there from time to time
- ☐ Family/relatives/friends - in CoO
- ☐ Family/relatives/friends - in CoA
- ☐ Community leaders
- ☐ Religious leaders
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Radio/ TV/ Printed media
- ☐ UN agencies, NNGOs and INGOs
- ☐ Other ***(Specify)***

7.3 Do you plan to return to CoO in the next 12 months?

- Yes – ***proceed to question 7.3.1***
- No – ***please proceed to question 7.3.2***
- Undecided ***– please proceed to question 7.3.3***

7.3.1 If YES – What are the main reasons, why you are planning to return to CoO in the next 12 months? (max. 3)

- ☐ The security situation has improved
- ☐ I have work/livelihood opportunities in CoO
- ☐ To provide education for my children
- ☐ To access services in CoO
- ☐ To access my land/property/housing
- ☐ To check on my land/property back home
- ☐ To obtain or access Nationality Card
- ☐ To obtain or access civil and other documentation (excl. nationality card)
- ☐ I now have sufficient information to return home
- ☐ I/my family no longer feels safe (e.g., legal, protection) in my country of asylum (e.g., due to harassment by refugee or host community, exploitation, abuse against women/children or being undocumented among others)
- ☐ Insufficient food security or food assistance in country of asylum
- ☐ Insufficient access to water services in country of asylum
- ☐ Insufficient access to health services in country of asylum
- ☐ Insufficient access to education services in country of asylum
- ☐ Insufficient access to shelter in country of asylum
- ☐ Insufficient access to land in country of asylum
- ☐ Insufficient access to livelihoods or employment in country of asylum
- ☐ I/my family want to return because of the high cost of living in country of asylum
- ☐ I/my family are tired of living in asylum and wish to return to our homes
- ☐ I /my family have sufficient resources to return
- ☐ I/ my family have sufficient resources to rebuild my life/our lives in CoO
- ☐ Family reunification
- ☐ I want to support CoO and the peace process
- ☐ Because of COVID-19 and/or COVID-19 measures
- ☐ Our leaders have told us to return
- ☐ I prefer not to say
- ☐ Other - ***Specify***

7.3.1.1 Whom are you planning to return to Sudan with?

- With all my family (all those registered in the same household) - ***proceed to 7.3.1.3***
- With all my family and extended family - ***proceed to 7.3.1.3***
- With some of my family/extended family members, while others will remain in the country of asylum - ***proceed to 7.3.1.3***
- Alone - ***proceed to 7.3.1.2***

7.3.1.1.1 Why do you plan to return alone?

- I want to check on the situation first before bringing my family

- My family is already in CoO
- My family wants to remain in the country of asylum
- I have no family in my current country of asylum
- It is not safe for my family
- Other ***(Specify)***

7.3.1.2 When are you planning to return?

- Zero to 3 months
- 4 to 6 months
- 7 to 12 months
- More than 12 months
- Other - ***Specify***

7.3.1.3 Where would you return?

- (name of location) [pre-populated proGres]
  - 5.1.4 a) State
  - 5.1.4 b) County
  - 5.1.4 c) Payam
- Undecided - ***proceed to 8.0***
- Choose not to answer - ***proceed to 8.0***

7.3.1.4 The place mentioned above is your

- Place of origin ***– proceed to 8.0***
- Place of habitual residence before displacement, if different from place of origin – ***proceed to 8.0***
- Other - ***proceed to 7.3.1.6***

7.3.1.5 Why are you choosing to return to another place than your place of origin or habitual residence?

- It is my spouse/family's place of origin
- It is safer
- It has livelihood/employment options
- It has education options for my children
- It has housing/land options
- Other – ***Specify***

[End of section for Plan to return = YES]

Proceed to 8.0

7.3.2 If NO – What are the main reasons, why you are not planning to return to CoO in the next 12 months? (max. 3)

- ☐ Lack of safety and security/ongoing conflict
- ☐ Fear of renewal of conflict
- ☐ Lack of a political solution to the conflict/lack of progress in the political process
- ☐ Lack of livelihood/work opportunities
- ☐ Inadequate health services
- ☐ Inadequate water services
- ☐ Inadequate electricity services
- ☐ Inadequate infrastructure
- ☐ Inadequate communication services
- ☐ Lack of education for my children/myself
- ☐ Lack of adequate housing and/or concerns over my land/property/housing (i.e., destroyed, damaged, inaccessible, uninhabitable, occupied, etc.)
- ☐ I have concerns over obtaining or accessing civil documentation in CoO
- ☐ Due to my/my family's specific needs (such as disability, special medical needs, older person requiring care, etc.)
- ☐ family re/unification
- ☐ I am in the resettlement pipeline/I am interested in resettlement through UNHCR, complementary pathways opportunities, including family reunification to a third country or within the region
- ☐ Lack of resources to return and/or reintegrate there
- ☐ I am waiting for all my family to be ready to return
- ☐ One of my other family members is going to check the situation out or prepare and I will go later
- ☐ Because I expect harm due to my specific needs /profile
- ☐ I/my family were born in the CoA and/or have lived in the CoA very long and have lost ties with CoO
- ☐ I am married to a national of the CoA
- ☐ I want to obtain the nationality of the CoA
- ☐ Because of COVID-19 and/or COVID-19 measures
- ☐ I believe my family will have a better future in the CoA
- ☐ Our leaders have not yet told us to return
- ☐ There is no repatriation assistance (e.g., transport and NFIs)
- ☐ I prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other – ***Specify***

[End of section for Plan to return = NO]

Proceed to 8.0

7.3.3 If UNDECIDED – What are the main reasons? (max. 3)

- ☐ Lack of safety and security/ongoing conflict

- ☐ Fear of renewal of conflict
- ☐ Lack of a political solution to the conflict/lack of progress in the political process
- ☐ Lack of livelihood/work opportunities
- ☐ Inadequate health services
- ☐ Inadequate water services
- ☐ Inadequate electricity services
- ☐ Inadequate infrastructure
- ☐ Inadequate communication services
- ☐ Lack of education for my children/myself
- ☐ Lack of adequate housing and/or concerns over my land/property/housing (i.e., destroyed, damaged, inaccessible, uninhabitable, occupied, etc.)
- ☐ I have concerns over obtaining or accessing civil documentation in CoO
- ☐ Due to my/my family's specific needs (such as disability, special medical needs, older person requiring care, etc.)
- ☐ family re/unification
- ☐ I am in the resettlement pipeline/I am interested in resettlement through UNHCR, complementary pathways opportunities, including family reunification to a third country or within the region
- ☐ Lack of resources to return and/or reintegrate there
- ☐ I am waiting for all my family to be ready to return
- ☐ One of my other family members is going to check the situation out or prepare and I will go later
- ☐ Because I expect harm due to my specific needs /profile
- ☐ I/my family were born in the CoA and/or have lived in the CoA very long and have lost ties with CoO
- ☐ I am married to a national of the CoA
- ☐ I want to obtain the nationality of the CoA
- ☐ Because of COVID-19 and/or COVID-19 measures
- ☐ I believe my family will have a better future in the CoA
- ☐ Our leaders have not yet told us to return
- ☐ There is no repatriation assistance (e.g., transport and NFIs)
- ☐ I prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other – ***Specify***

[End of section for Plan to return = UNDECIDED]

Proceed to 8.0

7.4 ***[For respondents NOT involved in discussion to return (question 7.0)]***

If YOU WERE TO DECIDE, to return, do you have sufficient information to make an informed decision regarding return?

- Yes – ***proceed to 7.4.2***
- No – ***proceed to 7.4.1***
- I am not sure – ***proceed to 7.4.1.***

7.4.1 If NO / UNSURE, what additional information do you require?

- ☐ Information on assistance provided to returnees
- ☐ Information on the security and political situation
- ☐ Information/contact with my family, their whereabouts and how to reach them
- ☐ Information about the status of my properties (land, belongings)
- ☐ Information about health services
- ☐ Information about water services
- ☐ Information about electricity services
- ☐ Information about transportation services
- ☐ Information about communication services
- ☐ Information about food security
- ☐ Information about support for reintegration
- ☐ Information about livelihoods/work opportunities
- ☐ Information about education services
- ☐ Information about access/eligibility on CoO Nationality Certificate Card
- ☐ Information about the recognition and/or validation of documentation issued in the country of asylum (i.e., marriage certificate, birth certificate, education certificates, excluding Sudanese Nationality Certificate Card)
- ☐ Information on the tax and registration of movable properties (vehicles, motorbikes, etc.)
- ☐ Other (***Specify***)

Proceed to 7.4.3

7.4.2 Who / what are your sources of information on the situation in your place of origin?

- ☐ I have visited there from time to time
- ☐ My family has visited there from time to time
- ☐ Family/relatives/friends - in CoO
- ☐ Family/relatives/friends - in CoA
- ☐ Community leaders
- ☐ Religious leaders
- ☐ Internet

- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Radio/ TV/ Printed media
- ☐ UN agencies, NNGOs and INGOs
- ☐ Other (***Specify***)

7.4.3 If you were to decide, whether you return or not, would you plan to return to CoO in the next 12 months?

- Yes – ***proceed to question 7.4.3.1***
- No ***– proceed to question 7.4.3.2***
- Undecided – ***proceed to question 7.4.3.3***

7.4.3.1 If YES – What are the main reasons why you would plan to return to CoO in the next 12 months? (max. 3)

- ☐ The security situation has improved
- ☐ I have work/livelihood opportunities in CoO
- ☐ To provide education for my children
- ☐ To access services in CoO
- ☐ To access my land/property/housing
- ☐ To check on my land/property back home
- ☐ To obtain or access CoO Nationality Card
- ☐ To obtain or access civil and other documentation (excl. Sudanese nationality card)
- ☐ I now have sufficient information to return home
- ☐ I/my family no longer feels safe (e.g., legal, protection) in my country of asylum (e.g., due to harassment by refugee or host community, exploitation, abuse against women/children or being undocumented among others)
- ☐ Insufficient food security or food assistance in country of asylum
- ☐ Insufficient access to water services in country of asylum
- ☐ Insufficient access to health services in country of asylum
- ☐ Insufficient access to education services in country of asylum
- ☐ Insufficient access to shelter in country of asylum
- ☐ Insufficient access to land in country of asylum
- ☐ Insufficient access to livelihoods or employment in country of asylum
- ☐ I/my family want to return because of the high cost of living in country of asylum
- ☐ I/my family are tired of living in asylum and wish to return to our homes
- ☐ I /my family have sufficient resources to return
- ☐ I/ my family have sufficient resources to rebuild my life/our lives in CoO
- ☐ Family reunification
- ☐ I want to support CoO and the peace process
- ☐ Because of COVID-19 and/or COVID-19 measures
- ☐ Our leaders have told us to return
- ☐ I prefer not to say
- ☐ Other - ***Specify***

7.4.3.1.1 Whom would you plan to return to CoO with?

- With all my family (all those registered in the same household) - ***proceed to 7.4.3.1.3***
- With all my family and extended family - ***proceed to 7.4.3.1.3***
- With some of my family/extended family members while others will remain in the host country - ***proceed to 7.4.3.1.3***
- Alone - ***proceed to 7.4.3.1.2***

7.4.3.1.1.1 Why would you plan to return alone?

- I want to check on the situation first before bringing my family
- My family is already in CoO
- My family wants to remain in the country of asylum
- I have no family in my country of asylum
- It is not safe for my family
- Other ***(specify)***

7.4.3.1.2 When would you plan to return?

- Zero to 3 months
- 4 to 6 months
- 7 to 12 months
- More than 12 months
- Other - ***Specify***

7.4.3.1.3 Where would you return?

- (name of location) [pre-populated proGres]
  - 6.4.3 a) State
  - 6.4.3 b) County
  - 6.4.3 c) Payam
- Undecided
- Choose not to answer

7.4.3.1.4 The place mentioned above is your

- Place of origin – ***proceed to 8.0***
- Place of habitual residence before displacement, if different from place of origin – ***proceed to 8.0***
- Other -***Specify*** – ***proceed to 7.4.3.1.6***

7.4.3.1.5 Why would you choose to return to another place than your place of origin or habitual residence?

- It is my spouse/family's place of origin
- It is safer
- It has livelihood options
- It has education options for my children
- It has housing options
- Other – ***Specify***

[End of section for Plan to return = YES]

Proceed to 8.0

7.4.3.2 If NO – What are the main reasons why you would not plan to permanently return to CoO in the next 12 months? (max. 3)

- ☐ Lack of safety and security/ongoing conflict
- ☐ Fear of renewal of conflict
- ☐ Lack of a political solution to the conflict/lack of progress in the political process
- ☐ Lack of livelihood/work opportunities
- ☐ Inadequate health services
- ☐ Inadequate water services
- ☐ Inadequate electricity services
- ☐ Inadequate infrastructure
- ☐ Inadequate communication services
- ☐ Lack of education services for my children/myself
- ☐ Lack of adequate housing and/or concerns over my land/property/housing (i.e., destroyed, damaged, inaccessible, uninhabitable, occupied, etc.)
- ☐ I have concerns over obtaining or accessing civil documentation in CoO
- ☐ Due to my/my family's specific needs (such as disability, special medical needs, older person requiring care, etc.)
- ☐ I am in the resettlement pipeline/I am interested in resettlement through UNHCR, complementary pathways opportunities, including family reunification to a third country or within the region
- ☐ Lack of resources to return and/or reintegrate there
- ☐ I am waiting for all my family to be ready to return
- ☐ One of my other family members is going to check the situation out or prepare and I will go later
- ☐ Because I expect harm due to my specific needs /profile
- ☐ I/my family was/were born in the CoA and/or have lived in the CoA very long and have lost ties with CoO
- ☐ I am married to a national of the CoA
- ☐ I want to obtain the nationality of the CoA
- ☐ Because of COVID-19 and/or COVID-19 measures
- ☐ I believe my family will have a better future in the CoA
- ☐ Our leaders have not yet told us to return
- ☐ There is no repatriation assistance (e.g., transport and NFIs)
- ☐ I prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other – ***Specify***

[End of section for Plan to return = NO]

Proceed to 8.0

7.4.3.3 If UNDECIDED – What are the main reasons? (max. 3)

- ☐ Lack of safety and security/ongoing conflict
- ☐ Fear of renewal of conflict
- ☐ Lack of a political solution to the conflict/lack of progress in the political process
- ☐ Lack of livelihood/work opportunities
- ☐ Inadequate health services
- ☐ Inadequate water services
- ☐ Inadequate electricity services
- ☐ Inadequate infrastructure
- ☐ Inadequate communication services
- ☐ Lack of education for my children/myself
- ☐ Lack of adequate housing and/or concerns over my land/property/housing (i.e., destroyed, damaged, inaccessible, uninhabitable, occupied, etc.)
- ☐ I have concerns over obtaining or accessing civil documentation in CoO
- ☐ Due to my/my family's specific needs (such as disability, special medical needs, older person requiring care, etc.)
- ☐ I am in the resettlement pipeline/I am interested in resettlement through UNHCR, complementary pathways opportunities, including family reunification to a third country or within the region

- ☐ Lack of resources to return and/or reintegrate there
- ☐ I am waiting for all my family to be ready to return
- ☐ One of my other family members is going to check the situation out or prepare and I will go later
- ☐ Because I expect harm due to my specific needs /profile
- ☐ I/my family were born in the CoA and/or have lived in the CoA very long and have lost ties with CoO
- ☐ I am married to a national of the CoA
- ☐ I want to obtain the nationality of the CoA
- ☐ Because of COVID-19 and/or COVID-19 measures
- ☐ I believe my family will have a better future in the CoA
- ☐ Our leaders have not yet told us to return
- ☐ There is no repatriation assistance (e.g., transport and NFIs)
- ☐ I prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other – ***Specify***

[End of section for Plan to return = UNDECIDED]

Proceed to 8.0

8 Have you or any of your family undertaken any visits to CoO in the past 12 months?

- Yes ***– proceed to 8.1***
- No ***– proceed to 9.0***
- I don't know ***– proceed to 9.0***

8.1 If YES, how many times have you/they returned to CoO?

- Once
- Twice
- Three times or more

8.2 Why did you/they return?

- ☐ Family reasons
- ☐ Difficult conditions in CoA
- ☐ To check on my/ their properties
- ☐ To access CoO Nationality Card
- ☐ To check on or cultivate my/their agricultural lands (including planting, weeding, harvesting, etc.)
- ☐ To access education in CoO
- ☐ To access health in CoO
- ☐ To access housing in CoO
- ☐ Livelihoods/work opportunities
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Because of COVID-19 and/or COVID-19 measures
- ☐ Other - please ***Specify***

PROSPECTS FOR LOCAL SOLUTIONS AND LOCAL INTEGRATION

9 What was your main occupation prior to fleeing from CoO?

- Agriculture - farming
- Agriculture - livestock
- Agriculture - fisheries
- Business (kiosks, shops, trade, hair salon, etc.)
- Mechanic work (car, motorcycle repairs, etc.)
- Hospitality work (restaurant, hotel, tourism agency, etc.)
- Construction sector (mason/brick layers, plumbers, architects, surveyors, planners, etc.)
- Production and manufacturing (assemblers)
- Education (teacher, professor)
- Public sector (any kind of government-related job)
- Military or security (police, office, intelligence, etc.)
- Private security (guards, watchmen)
- Medical sector (doctor, nurse, pharmacist)
- Legal (judge, lawyer, notary public, etc.)
- NGO/UN work
- Student
- Transport (boda boda, taxi drivers)
- Religious professionals
- Stationary Plant and Machine operators
- Mining sectors (labourers and traders)
- Electrical and Electronics Trade worker
- Handicraft (Food processing, woodwork, beadwork, basketry, other crafts)
- Creative and performing artists (actors, filmmakers, graphic designers, photographers, authors, etc.)
- Cleaners and Helpers (Domestic, Hotel, etc.)
- None
- Other – ***specify***

10 Currently, what is your main occupation in the CoA?

- Agriculture - farming
- Agriculture - livestock
- Agriculture - fisheries

- Business (kiosks, shops, trade, hair salon, etc.)
- Mechanic work (car, motorcycle repairs, etc.)
- Hospitality work (restaurant, hotel, tourism agency, etc.)
- Construction sector (mason/brick layers, plumbers, architects, surveyors, planners, etc.)
- Production and manufacturing (assemblers)
- Education (teacher, professor)
- Public sector (any kind of government-related job)
- Military or security (police, office, intelligence, etc.)
- Private security (guards, watchmen)
- Medical sector (doctor, nurse, pharmacist)
- Legal (judge, lawyer, notary public, etc.)
- NGO/UN work
- Student
- Transport (boda boda, taxi drivers)
- Religious professionals
- Stationary Plant and Machine operators
- Mining sectors (labourers and traders)
- Electrical and Electronics Trade worker
- Handicraft (Food processing, woodwork, beadwork, basketry, other crafts)
- Creative and performing artists (actors, filmmakers, graphic designers, photographers, authors, etc.)
- Cleaners and Helpers (Domestic, Hotel, etc.)
- None
- Other – ***Specify***

10.1 Do you have a work permit or business license for your current occupation in the CoA?

- Yes ***– proceed to 10.1.1***
- No ***– proceed to 10.1.2***
- I don't need a work permit for my current occupation in the country of asylum – ***proceed to 11***

10.1.1 If YES, for how long is it valid (#)

10.1.1.1 Have you had trouble renewing your work permit in the past?

- Yes ***– proceed to 10.1.1.1.1***
- No ***– proceed to 11***

10.1.1.2 If YES, what was the challenge in renewing your work permit?

- ☐ I did not know the procedure
- ☐ Couldn't meet the requirements
- ☐ It was too expensive
- ☐ I requested but it was rejected
- ☐ I requested and it is not concluded
- ☐ Other ***(Specify)***

Proceed to 11

10.1.2 If NO, why

- ☐ It has expired, and I haven't renewed
- ☐ My application request was rejected
- ☐ I lost/misplaced it
- ☐ I have requested for it, but I haven't received it yet
- ☐ I have never requested for it
- ☐ I didn't know I needed it
- ☐ I don't know the application procedures
- ☐ It is too expensive
- ☐ I cannot meet the requirements to apply for it
- ☐ Other

11 What type of education or/and skills have you acquired in the country of asylum?

- Basic literacy for adults
- Primary education
- Secondary education
- Tertiary education
- Vocational education (***Specify***)

12 What type of basic job-related skills have you acquired in the country of asylum?

- ☐ Mechanical trades (car, motorcycle, bicycle repairs)
- ☐ Agricultural trades (crops and livestock)
- ☐ Building and construction trades (carpenter, mason/brick layer, painter, plumber)
- ☐ Manufacturing trades (factory-hand, dressmaking, assembly plant)
- ☐ Hospitality trades (food, restaurant, hotel, tourism)
- ☐ ICT/Computer trades (including mobile phone repairs, PC repairs)
- ☐ Beauty/care (hair, skin, body care)
- ☐ Retail trades (shops, kiosks, supply)
- ☐ Basic entrepreneurship training
- ☐ Other trades (***Specify***)

- ☐ No education or skills acquired in the country of asylum

End of questionnaire for CoA Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

[ONLY APPLIED IN CoA SUDAN]

13 Do you know that the nationality law of Sudan allows some foreigners (including refugees) to access Sudanese nationality under certain requirements?

- Yes – ***proceed to 13.1***
- No – ***proceed to 13.2***

13.1 How did you obtain this information?

- ☐ Sudanese Government/Civil Registry
- ☐ Community leaders
- ☐ Religious leaders
- ☐ Other South Sudanese who applied for Sudanese nationality
- ☐ Sudanese friends
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Radio/ TV/ Printed media
- ☐ UN agencies, NNGOs and INGOs
- ☐ Other – ***Specify***

13.2 Would you be interested in receiving this information?

- Yes
- No

14 If you had an option to remain in Sudan in the future, would you like to do so?

- Yes – ***proceed to 14.1***
- No – ***proceed to 15***
- Undecided – ***proceed to 15***

14.1 Where in Sudan would you like to stay?

- Continue to live in the current location
- Move to bigger cities/towns in the same State or neighboring State
- Move to Khartoum
- I do not know
- Other – ***Specify***

15 What kind of legal status would you like to have in Sudan?

- Keep the refugee status ***– end of questionnaire***
- Obtain an alternative legal status (to refugee status) such as residency like other non-refugee foreigners – ***proceed to 15.1***
- Acquire the Sudanese nationality – ***proceed to 15.2***
- I do not know ***– end of questionnaire***
- Other – ***Specify – end of questionnaire***

15.1 For alternative legal status: Why would you like to have such an alternative legal status to refugee status?

- ☐ I will be able to live anywhere I wish in the host country
- ☐ I will be able to move freely anywhere I wish within the host country
- ☐ I will be able to have easier access to the local labor market
- ☐ I will be able to register my business
- ☐ I will be able to legally own a house or land
- ☐ I will be able to access national education services more easily
- ☐ I will be able to access national health services more easily
- ☐ I will be able to open a bank account
- ☐ I will be able to obtain a SIM card under my name in Sudan
- ☐ I will not be arrested or detained even if I move out of my current location
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Other - ***Specify***

15.1.1 Are you aware of the implications to resign your refugee status (over alternative legal status)?

This includes, for instance, no more humanitarian assistance as refugee including food

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

End of questionnaire

15.2 Have you ever applied for Sudanese nationality?

- Yes – ***proceed to 15.2.1***
- No – ***proceed to 15.3***

15.2.1 Did you successfully obtain the Sudanese nationality?

- Yes
- No

15.3 Why would you like have Sudanese nationality over refugee status in Sudan?

- ☐ I/my family have lived in Sudan for a long time and identify myself/ourselves as Sudanese
- ☐ I/my family were born in Sudan / are Sudanese and identify myself/ourselves as Sudanese
- ☐ I/my family have lived in Sudan for a long time and have no link with South Sudan
- ☐ One of my parents or grandparents is a Sudanese national
- ☐ I can trace my ancestry in Sudan as of 1926
- ☐ I will be able to live anywhere I wish in the host country
- ☐ I will be able to move freely anywhere I wish within the host country
- ☐ I will be able to have easier access to the local labor market
- ☐ I will be able to register my business
- ☐ I will be able to legally own a house or land
- ☐ I will be able to access national education services more easily
- ☐ I will be able to access national health services more easily
- ☐ I will be able to open a bank account
- ☐ I will be able to obtain a SIM card under my name in Sudan
- ☐ I will not be arrested or detained even if I move out of my current location
- ☐ Other - ***Specify***

15.3.1 Are you aware that acquiring Sudanese nationality would result in the automatic loss of your refugee status in Sudan?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

End of questionnaire

Qualitative research

Focus Group Discussion Template

1. Have you / your family / community considered returning to your country of origin?
2. If you were to return, how would you support yourself?
3. What support would you need:
    a. In your place of origin
    b. In your country of asylum
4. Do men, women and youth have different needs that determine their intentions to stay or return?
    a. What are the different needs? What do they lack?
    b. Are there specific groups in your community with particular concerns regarding returns?
5. What information do refugees need to make informed decisions about returns?
6. Which sources do they get this information from and do they trust in these sources?
7. Why do refugees who return to their country of origin sometimes choose not to stay i.e. why do they come back to their country of asylum?

Key Informant Interview Template

1. What characterises those who want to return?
    a. What are their expectations, concerns, fears, needs, capacities?

   b. Do different groups of refugees (men, women, youth, persons with specific needs) have different decision-making processes when it comes to return?
   c. What protection concerns do minority refugee groups have concerning returns? How do these concerns affect their decision to return?
2. What popular perceptions exist of when is the right time to return, what are good reasons to return?
   a. What meanings do refugees ascribe to the decision to return?
   b. Do these perceptions vary according to age, gender and diversity of the group?
3. What do refugees need in order to make safer return decisions?
   a. Which sources do they trust to get this information?
   b. Do leaders have a role to play in the decision to return or not? If so, what role? (Refugee community leaders, political leaders back in CoO, political leaders in CoA)
4. What support do refugees need to make safe return decisions?
   a. How can refugees be better supported in the country of asylum/ country of origin (assistance, training, information)?
5. What are the in-depth concerns of pendular movers?
   a. Why do refugees who return to their country of origin sometimes choose not to stay i.e. why do they come back to their country of asylum?

Simplified Qualitative Research Matrix

Simplified Qualitative Research Matrix.docx

Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews Framework and Questionnaire

Annex 5.0 RIS - Qualitative Framewor