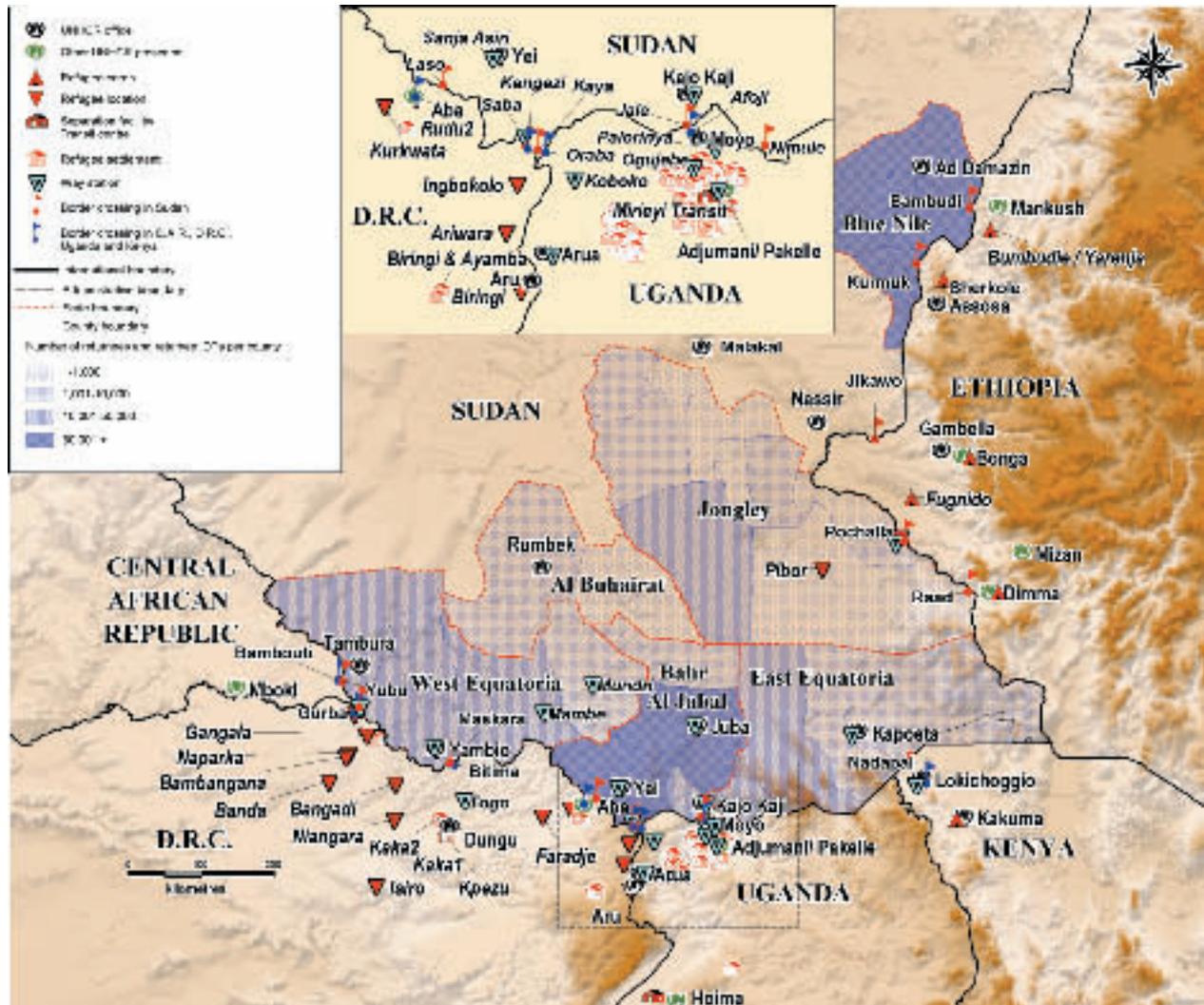


# South Sudan (Supplementary programme)



## Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives for South Sudan were to provide international protection and contribute to the creation of conditions conducive to the return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs); ensure that the voluntary repatriation and return takes place in safety and in dignity; contribute to the provision of humanitarian assistance; implement the 4Rs approach (Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction); and assume a key coordinating role for the protection and reintegration of IDPs arriving in Equatoria and the Blue Nile states.

## Persons of concern

Please refer to the *Sudan (Annual programme)* chapter.

## Impact

- UNHCR assumed a key role in protection and developed together with other agencies a comprehensive protection-based framework for refugees and IDPs. UNHCR also established an office in Damazine to handle its role as the lead agency for protection in the Blue Nile State.
- Seven emergency response teams were deployed to strategic locations in Bor, Damazine, Juba, Kajo-Keji, Kapoeta, Malakal, Nassir, Tambura and Yei. These teams strengthened returnee protection monitoring, spearheaded the implementation of community-based reintegration projects (CBRPs) and opened 12 offices in South Sudan.
- Implementation of 100 CBRPs based on the 4Rs approach addressed the needs of spontaneous returnees and contributed to improved conditions in areas of return for refugees and IDPs.



The first repatriation movement since the signing of the peace agreement brought refugees to South Sudan from Kakuma camp in Kenya on 17 December 2005.  
UNHCR / H. Caux

2005 officially ended the civil war in South Sudan. It raised hopes of improved security, of the return of IDPs and refugees and of social-economic recovery and reconstruction. Although the subsequent death of SPLM/A leader John Garang sparked violent riots in some city areas, peace was quickly restored with the appointment in August 2005 of Lt General Salva Kiir as the First Vice President of the Government of National Unity and President of South Sudan. Though the two parties were committed to the process, significant challenges still remained in ensuring the full implementation of the CPA.

- A logistics hub in Yei improved the logistics capacity of UNHCR. Light vehicles, cargo trucks, telecommunications equipment and non-food items were procured in preparation for organized returns. Work on eight way stations was completed.
- Three separate tripartite agreements were signed between UNHCR, the Government authorities of Sudan and of South Sudan and the following three countries: Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Kenya.
- The first organized repatriation movement took 131 refugees from Kakuma, Kenya, by air and road convoy to Bor and Kapoeta in South Sudan. “Go and see” visits were organized from camps in Kenya and CAR to Tambura, Bor and Kapoeta.
- In coordination with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and partner agencies, UNHCR conducted mine risk education activities in returnee areas and refugee camps, supported landmine mapping and clearing of return routes and return areas in Greater Equatoria, where according to local authority estimates, more than 100,000 refugees had already returned.

## Income and expenditure (USD)

Please refer to the *Sudan (Annual programme)* chapter.

## Working environment

### The context

The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in January

Building on the peace agreement, the Government of Sudan and the SPLM, together with development partners and civil society outlined the Framework for Sustained Peace, Development and Poverty Eradication, covering a six-year interim period (2005-2011). The observations of the Joint Assessment of Needs Mission (JAM) led to the development of the Framework, which was presented to the international donor community in Oslo in April 2005. UNHCR’s reintegration interventions based on the 4Rs approach were area-based and cross-sectoral, focusing on the urgent needs of the returnees, IDPs and refugees.

At the end of 2004, an initial planning figure of 150,000 refugee returns was set for an 18-month period. In 2005, the figure was revised to 64,000 based on surveys of intention to return conducted in refugee camps. In 2005, UNHCR, therefore, aimed to create conditions conducive to the return of refugees and IDPs to common areas of return and to initiate voluntary repatriation. From January to May, prior to the rainy season, southern Sudanese refugees who returned of their own accord, mainly from CAR and DRC, were helped to reintegrate within their communities, alongside returning IDPs, through expanded basic services and attention to specific needs. After the rainy season (June-December) UNHCR continued to improve conditions and the necessary infrastructure in return areas to support the organized voluntary repatriation of a projected 64,000 refugees while assuming a key leadership role in the Equatoria and Blue Nile states.

### Constraints

The programme implementation in South Sudan was constrained by poor physical infrastructure (including

poor roads), the lack of basic services and the presence of anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance in key areas and return routes. In addition, insecurity in the region slowed down the return of development agencies and community-based organizations, limiting the number and capacity of implementing partners working on UNHCR's reintegration projects. Local institutions and government authorities lacked the capacity to reintegrate returnees and required substantial material, human and financial resources. In Western and Central Equatoria, the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) around Yei and inter-ethnic clashes in Tambura and Yambio posed huge challenges to humanitarian work. Preparatory activities had to be postponed or temporarily suspended, and staff in some locations relocated to safer areas. UN security phase IV was declared in most of Western and Central Equatoria States in the latter half of 2005 (for security phases please see the *Glossary*). Insecure conditions in parts of Eastern and Western Equatoria also affected planned repatriation, particularly from CAR, DRC, Kenya and Uganda.

## Funding

In 2005, out of a total requirement of USD 76.3 million, the operation received USD 45 million in contributions. Planning was difficult because funding came too late in the year and was insufficient to cover all needs. This also hampered UNHCR's ability to complete critical preparatory activities linked to protection monitoring such as the establishment of offices as well as assistance activities essential for sustainable returns. In September, the operation had to borrow USD 5 million from the Central Emergency Relief Fund to ensure that preparatory activities in anticipation of returns did not come to a complete standstill.

## Achievement and impact

### Protection and solutions

In 2005, UNHCR focused on preparatory activities to ensure the safe and dignified return of 64,000 refugees and IDPs by strengthening local institutions. UNHCR established a legal framework with the Government of National Unity of Sudan as well as with countries of asylum in order to put in place principles governing the repatriation operation. In November and December 2005 three separate tripartite agreements were signed by Sudan, UNHCR, and CAR, DRC and Kenya. "Go and see" visits were organized for refugee representatives from Mboki camp in CAR and Kakuma camp in Kenya to areas of origin. Mass information meetings were held to apprise the refugee community of the findings of the leaders. At the end of the year 131 refugees returned from Kenya with UNHCR's assistance.

UNHCR's involvement with IDPs was based on the framework of the UN Country Team, following the request by the Humanitarian Coordinator in May 2005 for UNHCR to play an active role in the return and reintegration of IDPs and refugees to Equatoria and the Blue Nile states. In October, the Emergency Relief Coordinator also asked UNHCR to become more involved in addressing the protection needs of IDPs in Khartoum and Kassala states. UNHCR worked together with other agencies on setting up legal and policy mechanisms for returning populations through the UN Returns Policy Framework. To guide the implementation of the Framework, UNHCR also helped develop the UN Protection Framework for Returns and the UN Operational Plan for Spontaneous Returns.

### Activities and assistance

**Domestic needs and household support:** In preparation for organized returns, UNHCR procured and pre-positioned blankets, plastic sheeting, mosquito nets and jerry cans in the logistics hub in Yei.

**Education:** As access to education was identified as a priority by returnees, UNHCR collaborated with UNICEF to ensure access to education facilities in Juba, Kajo-Keji, Morobo, Rumbek, Tambura, Yambio and Yei. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology at county level, and the Government of South Sudan, were supported through the rehabilitation and reconstruction of 40 primary and secondary schools and the provision of furniture, materials and supplies benefiting almost 1,000 students. Some 200 primary and secondary school teachers benefited from workshops and training while over 300 returnees underwent intensive teacher training in Juba to increase the number of qualified teachers. UNHCR paid the examination fees for almost 200 returnee students in Juba sitting the Sudan School Certificate Examinations, and 700 returnee students at Juba Day Secondary School received school supplies. In Yei, 30 students were trained in carpentry and brick-making; bicycles and grinding mills were provided as incentives to teachers.

**Health and nutrition:** UNHCR's partners collaborated with UNICEF and WHO to rehabilitate a referral hospital in Yambio, a paediatric ward and an outpatient department in Maridi and Rumbek hospitals and to reconstruct and rehabilitate over 40 primary health centres. Medical equipment and drugs were also provided to health institutions in the Equatoria region. Community outreach programmes delivered awareness and training activities on HIV/AIDS, and voluntary counselling and testing services were established. Three workshops on sexual and gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS were conducted for civil servants, police officers, civil society and teachers in Ezo, Tambura and Yambio.

**Income generation:** To strengthen the food production and income generation capacity of host communities and returnees, UNHCR distributed seeds and tools to 3,000 households in Kajo-Keji, Tambura and Yei. Grinding mills, brick-making machines and machines to process shea butter were procured and provided to communities in Equatoria region. UNHCR also supported vocational skills training activities for young people, including school dropouts, ex-soldiers, women and people with disabilities. In Torit, 50 farmers were helped to take up beekeeping. In Blue Nile State, UNHCR provided 2,000 agricultural kits to returnees and host communities; and 48 women were trained in business management skills.

**Legal assistance:** To assist local authorities in Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile and Greater Equatoria, UNHCR put in place field monitors to track and monitor return movements, developed training modules and trained enumerators in human rights, refugee law and the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*. Office equipment and legal reference books were provided for the Rumbek Judicial Resource Centre. At the Yei police academy over 200 police cadets received training on human rights issues, as did 70 army officers and soldiers at the Juba military base.

A land and property study was undertaken by UNHCR in collaboration with FAO and partner organizations. Workshops on land and property issues were developed and conducted in collaboration with the Judiciary of South Sudan and the Secretariat of Legal Affairs in Rumbek and Yei. The workshops provided an opportunity for lawyers and their assistants and tribal chiefs to discuss mechanisms for the fair allocation of land and the settlement of disputes, as well as women's rights to own and access land.

UNHCR established 15 peace committees involving youth and women's groups in eastern Equatoria and eastern Upper Nile to facilitate community efforts in peace and reconciliation initiatives. Between March and June 2005, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Humanitarian Affairs Commission, UN agencies and partner organizations, co-funded and conducted a survey on the intention of return of IDPs. The survey results indicated that 33 per cent of IDPs wished to return to the South and 14 per cent to East Sudan and the Blue Nile State.

UNHCR and agency staff conducted landmine risk-awareness training for NGOs and local communities in Yei, Morobo, Lainya and Kapoeta, and demined a 13-kilometre stretch of the Yei-Lasu road. Mine clearance needs assessments were also completed on the Kurmuk-Chali road.

**Operational support (to agencies):** Administrative costs of implementing partners were covered by UNHCR to ensure timely and efficient service delivery to beneficiaries.

**Sanitation:** Over 20 communal latrines were dug and over 200 concrete latrine slabs were distributed to families in Kajo-Keji to improve household sanitation; 12 personal hygiene, sanitation and environmental training workshops were held in returnee areas.

**Shelter and infrastructure:** With a higher level of returns expected to the Equatoria region, a logistics base, a mechanical workshop and warehouse facilities were established in Yei, where stocks of non-food items were pre-positioned to support returnees and the local communities. Of the planned 60 way stations for which UNHCR was responsible, 15 were in Sudan and the remainder in countries of asylum. By the end of 2005, eight way stations with temporary shelters and sanitation facilities had been built.

**Transport and logistics:** In order to support returns from DRC, priority routes were rehabilitated, such as the Yei-Lasu road. In October 2005, the multi-sectoral assessment teams assessed road repairs in the Blue Nile State. Several tipper trucks and cargo trucks and 100 light vehicles were procured for these purposes.

**Water:** In order to improve access to potable water in areas of return (Juba, Kajo-Keji, Tambura, Torit and Yei), UNHCR drilled over 40 boreholes and rehabilitated another 40 boreholes, and trained over 20 water committees. Water surveys were also completed in the Blue Nile State.

## Organization and implementation

### Management

In October 2005, UNHCR established the Office of the Operations Manager in Juba to strengthen its Representation in Khartoum. All sub-offices in South Sudan reported to the Operations Manager, except for the field office in Damazine (Blue Nile State) which reported to the Representative in Khartoum, for ease of access. In South Sudan, 12 UNHCR offices were established in key return areas supported by 145 staff (74 internationals including UNVs, consultants and secondees, and 71 nationals).

### Working with others

Through the Core Group for Return and Reintegration, UNHCR and sister UN agencies put in place the UN Policy Framework for Return and Reintegration. The Core

Group developed standards and guidelines for different return scenarios which were reflected in the 2005 UN Work Plan. UNHCR also worked with government counterparts and 33 national and international NGOs, of which 22 were partners implementing 100 CBRPs in the South.

## Overall assessment

Despite challenges linked to security and funding, to a large extent UNHCR achieved its planned objectives in 2005. The Office established and consolidated its presence and prepared the ground for the voluntary return and reintegration of the refugees and IDPs to South Sudan and the Blue Nile State. The increased logistics capacity, the provision of protection and CBRPs in Western Equatoria made a significant impact in addressing the needs of spontaneous returnees and their host communities. One hundred CBRPs were implemented by 22 NGO partners according to agreements signed with UNHCR. UNHCR chaired the Protection Working Group and participated in the establishment of the UN Protection Framework for Returns which recommends key protection principles and standards to guide all UN agencies and partner organizations. UNHCR also played a key role in the design and revision of the UN Operational Plan for Spontaneous Returns.

Through collaboration with FAO and UNDP, UNHCR co-funded and contributed to the development of a comprehensive programme on land and property issues. Logistics missions to Greater Equatoria enabled UNHCR to finalize repatriation plans from Kenya, DRC and CAR, even though planned movements from CAR and DRC could not take place in 2005 due to LRA activity and inter-ethnic clashes in Equatoria. UNHCR led the UN Country Team inter-agency mission to the Blue Nile State to prepare for the 2006 UN Work Plan.

Offices
<b>Khartoum</b>
Bor
Damazine
Juba
Kajo-Keji
Kapoeta
Kurmuk
Malakal
Nassir
Rumbek
Tambura
Yambio
Yei

Partners
<b>Government agencies</b>
The Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission
Humanitarian Affairs Commission
Commissioner for Refugees
Secretariat of Education-Sudan
<b>NGOs</b>
Action Committee for Promotion of Local Initiatives
<i>Action contre la faim</i>
Adventist Development and Relief Agency
African Development and Emergency Organization
<i>Aktion Afrika Hilfe</i>
American Refugee Committee
Association of Christian Resource Organisation
Bahr El Ghazal Youth Development Agency
Catholic Relief Services
<i>Comitato Collaborazione Medica</i>
Diocese of Yei
Humanitarian Assistance for South Sudan
International Aid
International Medical Corps
International Rescue Committee
Jesuit Refugee Service
<i>Malteser Hilfsdienst</i>
Mines Advisory Group
New Sudan Council of Churches
Norwegian People's Aid
Norwegian Refugee Council
Ockenden International
Pact's Sudan Country Program
South Sudan Community Association
South Sudan Development Organisation
Swedish Free Mission
Sudan Health Association
Trans-Cultural Psycho-Social Organisation
World Relief Sudan
World Vision International
Windle Trust UN in Sudan
Zoa Refugee Care
<b>Others</b>
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
FAO
OCHA
UNICEF
UNDP
UNMAS
UNMIS
UNV
WFP
WHO

## Financial report (USD)

Please refer to the *Sudan (Annual programme)* chapter.