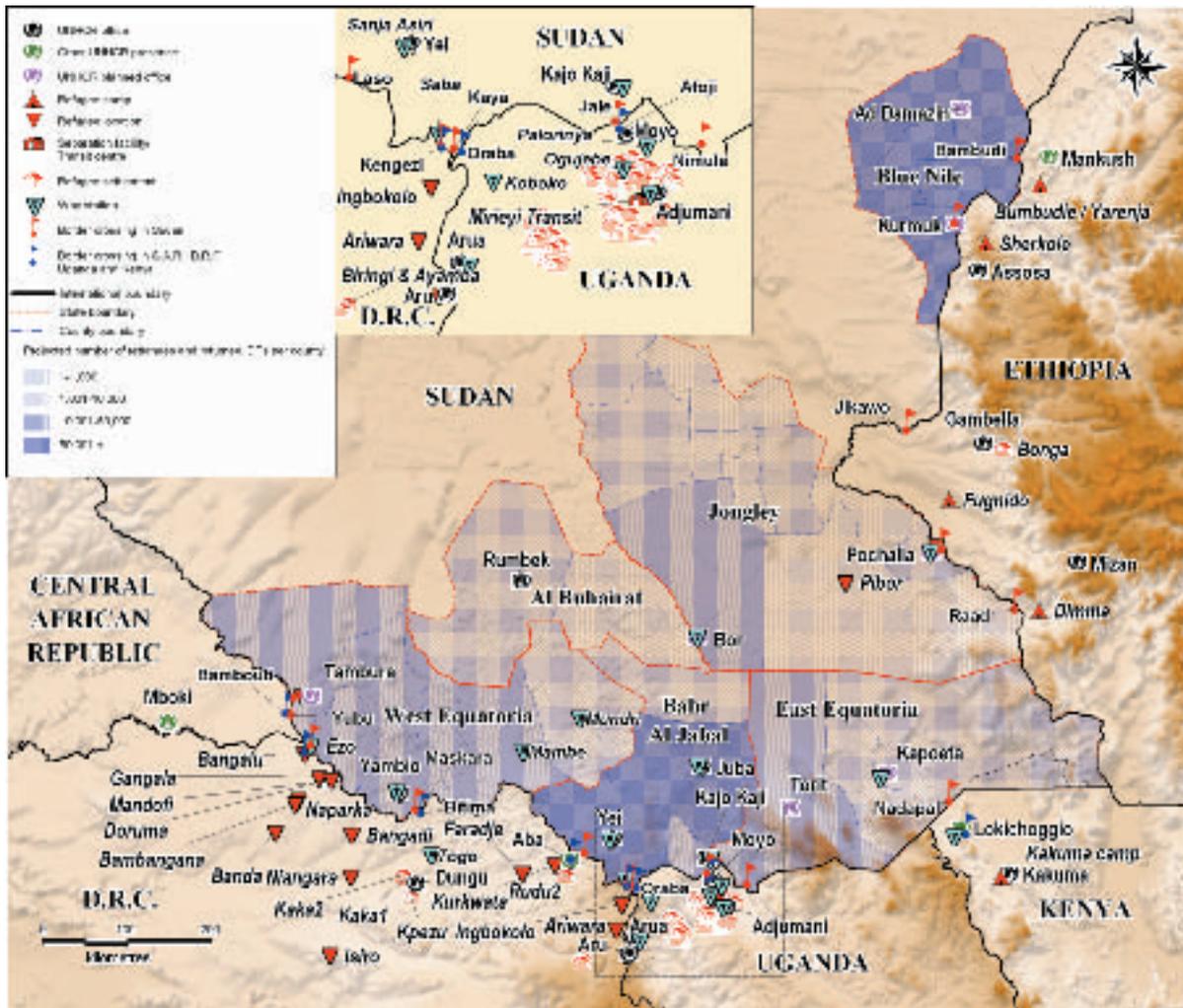


South Sudan



Main objectives

- Facilitate safe and dignified voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees from countries of asylum.
- Promote durable solutions for returning refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) through sustainable reintegration activities pursued through the implementation of community-based reintegration projects employing the "4Rs" approach to reintegration assistance and thereby contributing to an effective transition from relief to recovery.
- Address protection issues faced by returning populations through interventions with the local authorities.
- Lead the formulation of an inter-agency protection framework for South Sudan.
- Under the coordination of the Return, Reintegration and Recovery Section of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), play a lead role in assisting the return and reintegration of IDPs in greater Equatoria (West Equatoria, East Equatoria and Bahr el Jebel) and Blue Nile State.

Financial requirements for this supplementary programme are being finalized



The Peace Agreement has opened the way for the return to southern Sudan of many refugees and IDPs. Women collect water at a new settlement outside Rumbek, where many returnees have set up home. *UNHCR / R. Ek*

Planning figures

UNHCR expects a total of 140,000 Sudanese refugees from the neighbouring countries to return to South Sudan by May 2006. Of this total, approximately 55,000 will benefit from organized returns (Central African Republic: 6,000, Democratic Republic of the Congo: 10,000, Egypt: 5,000, Ethiopia: 14,000, Kenya: 10,000, Uganda: 10,000) and 85,000 may return spontaneously. At the time of writing, the projected number of returnees by the end of 2006 was not available as surveys from countries of asylum on intention to return were still being compiled.

Working environment

Recent developments

On 9 January 2005, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) formally ending more than two decades of civil war in Sudan. The signing of the CPA has paved the way for the recovery and reconstruction of South Sudan and the return of millions of displaced people. The civil war in South Sudan has caused the displacement of approximately four million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and more than half a million refugees.

In July 2005, Dr. John Garang, the former leader of the SPLM/A, was sworn in as the first Vice-President of the Republic of Sudan and the President of South Sudan, but then tragically lost his life in a helicopter crash. The announcement of his death sparked violent riots in Khartoum and in the

southern towns of Juba and Malakal, resulting in numerous casualties and widespread destruction of property. The SPLM/A appointed Salva Kiir, former Vice-President of southern Sudan, to succeed Dr. John Garang. A Government of National Unity was formed in accordance with the CPA with SPLM and the former ruling National Congress Party taking up nine and 16 ministerial portfolios respectively. Juba was confirmed to be the new capital of South Sudan. It is here that government institutions and humanitarian agencies are currently establishing their offices.

Constraints

In 2006, displaced populations are expected to return to areas that have suffered heavily from conflict and where basic social services are limited or non-existent. Physical infrastructure is lacking, the little that had been in place before the conflict now long since destroyed. Local institutions and communities in the south are perilously overstretched.

The presence of the Uganda-based Lord's Resistance Army continues to cause displacement within southern Equatoria, making it difficult for refugees to return. Numerous Sudanese militia groups still need to be brought into the peace and reconciliation processes. Regional and clan differences remain sources of tension and social strife in South Sudan. Issues such as land allocation and livelihood opportunities also pose major challenges to sustainable return. Landmines and unexploded ordnance are omnipresent, and many feeder roads to be used by returning refugees and IDPs are still mined.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

UNHCR has been appointed the lead agency for the protection sector in South Sudan and chairs the Protection Working Groups in Rumbek, Juba and other state capitals of South Sudan. UNHCR collaborates with the Government of South Sudan, in particular with the Sudan Relief and

Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC) and assists them in fulfilling their primary role of providing protection to refugees and IDPs, as well as returning IDPs and refugees. UNHCR's support is mainly in the areas of protection and return monitoring, capacity building and training on IDP and returnee protection standards and principles, registration, information campaigns, as well as interventions with the authorities on behalf of returnees and those still displaced. Furthermore, UNHCR seeks to implement community-based reintegration projects to ensure that returnees can freely exercise their right to return to areas of their choice or their right to integrate where they are. UNHCR's overarching protection principle is to ensure that IDPs and returnees are equally treated and that the same protection standards are applied for both.

UNHCR plays a prominent role in the inter-agency collaborative effort in South Sudan and has developed a common protection framework which will guide the operational response of the UN, partners and local authorities for the provision of protection services along routes and in areas of return. As part of the framework, UNHCR aims to ensure the legal, physical and material security of returnees; secure a receptive environment in areas of return; strengthen local institutions through capacity-building activities; promote fair land and property restitution and allocation; and promote confidence building and reconciliation.

In 2006, UNHCR will continue to deploy monitoring teams to track return movements. In collaboration with concerned UN agencies, UNHCR will support HIV/AIDS prevention/awareness and promotion of gender equality through community-based organizations and in cooperation with local authorities.

Refugees of other nationalities

Insecurity in neighbouring countries has led to an influx of refugees from Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR). UNHCR is aware of the presence of 20,000 refugees from these three countries in the south and in Khartoum. UNHCR

will liaise with local authorities to promote asylum for these groups and provide assistance in coordination with other humanitarian agencies, bearing in mind the need to promote self-sufficiency at the earliest opportunity.

Assistance

From October to May, prior to the rainy season, voluntary repatriation from various countries of asylum will take place simultaneously. A logistics base in Yei will be further developed to support voluntary repatriation (it houses the main warehouse for non-food items and fuel and the main workshop for vehicle maintenance).

UNHCR will be responsible for the management of 13 way stations located on key return routes. Basic medical facilities and mine awareness education will be made available to returning populations. Returnees will stay a maximum of 72 hours in way stations before proceeding to their final destinations. In close partnership with UN Mine Action Service, mines on return routes will be cleared. The rehabilitation of bridges and roads on return routes will continue.

In order to help returnees resume a normal life upon arrival, UNHCR and its partner agencies will continue to implement a wide range of community-based reintegration projects serving one or more of the five main sectors: water, sanitation, education, health, and livelihood. UNHCR will assist local authorities (police and judiciary) to cope with increased populations by providing training on human rights and material assistance such as office equipment.

From May to October, during the rainy season, when most roads in the South become unusable, UNHCR will focus on stockpiling and capacity building for the local authorities.

Desired impact

Conditions permitting, UNHCR will repatriate an estimated 140,000 refugees in safety and dignity to South Sudan by May 2006. The initial two-year post-conflict phase is crucial to the return and

reintegration of refugees and IDPs. Ideally, the recurrence of displacement, or an exodus from rural to urban areas, should be precluded. In this regard, provision of assistance to returnees will have an immediate and visible impact and will meet their immediate and urgent basic needs. For the local population in target areas, assistance will build confidence, encourage reconciliation, and help peace to take root.

Refugees from Ethiopia, DRC, and CAR hosted in South Sudan will be registered and receive protection and basic assistance pending durable solutions.

Organization and implementation

Management structure

The Director of Operations for the Sudan Situation has overall managerial responsibility and provides policy and operational guidance on the voluntary repatriation of the Sudanese refugees in CAR, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Following observations made by the High Commissioner during his first visit to Sudan, the Director of Operations for the Sudan Situation (DOSS) has, since October 2005, reorganised the management structure to address operational objectives and activities in South Sudan. The decision has also been influenced by the southern authorities' recent designation of Juba as their political capital. The Operations Manager based in Juba will run UNHCR activities in South Sudan and will be directly accountable to the Director of Operations for the Sudan Operations. This arrangement is in line with the management structure of UNMIS for South Sudan. The Operations Manager will also liaise with the countries of asylum. The branch office in Khartoum will collaborate and cooperate with the Operations Manager's office on protection, programme, supply chain, logistics and administration until it builds up its human resource capacity in Juba by early 2006.

In this regard, the staffing for the 2006 South Sudan operations is currently under review. The operation in 2005 was managed by 42

international staff 121 national staff and 13 UNVs. The number of staff is expected to increase following a staffing review in late 2005.

Coordination

UNHCR's repatriation and reintegration programme is regional in nature in the sense that it includes returns to South Sudan from seven refugee-hosting African countries. In South Sudan, UNHCR will operate within the collaborative humanitarian framework set out in the UN Work Plan. UNHCR will continue to contribute to inter-agency efforts to develop comprehensive policies, guidelines and standards for the return and reintegration as well as protection frameworks for returning refugees and IDPs. These efforts are incorporated into the UN Work Plan for 2006 to support spontaneous and assisted returns.

Offices
Juba
Ad Damazin
Bor
Kajo-Kaji
Kapoeta
Malakal
Pochalla
Rumbek
Tambura
Torit
Kurmuk
Yambio
Yei

Partners
Government agencies
Humanitarian Affairs Commission
Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

NGOs

Action contre la faim
 Adventist Development and Relief Agency (USA)
 African Development and Emergency Organization
Afrika Aktion Hilfe
 American Refugee Committee
 Association of Christian Resource Organization for South Sudan
 Catholic Relief Services (USA)
 Comboni Missionaries
Comitato Collaborazione Medica
 Diocese of Rumbek
 Diocese of Yei
 Humanitarian Assistance for South Sudan
 International Aid Services
 International Rescue Committee
 Jesuit Refugee Services Italy
 Lutheran World Federation
Malteser Hilfsdienst (Germany)
 New Sudan Council of Churches
 Norwegian Peoples Aid
 Norwegian Refugee Council
 PACT International (USA)
 Secretariat of Education
 Swedish Free Mission
 World Relief Sudan (USA)
 World Vision International
 ZOA Refugee Care

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
 FAO
 ICRC
 UNDP
 UNICEF
 United Nations Mine Action Services
 United Nations Mission in Sudan
 UNV
 WFP

Financial requirements are being finalized for this supplementary programme