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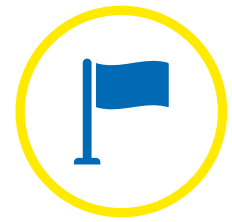
# Legal status and displacement history

A photograph of a woman, Amira Khalifa Husein, standing in the center of a makeshift shelter made of sticks and branches. She is wearing an orange headscarf and a patterned orange dress, and she is holding a large white ID card. In front of her, six children are seated on a wooden bench. The children are dressed in simple, colorful clothing. The background shows more of the shelter and some trees under a cloudy sky.

Amira Khalifa Husein holds her ID that lists her six daughters (seated) and her two sons (not pictured). Her eldest daughter, Muna, who is aged 18, holds her ID which most refugees over 15 possess.

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# Nationality

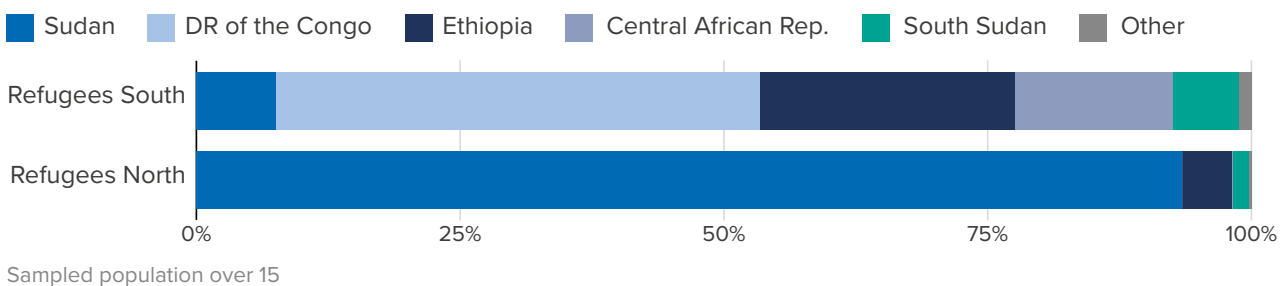


Almost the entire registered refugee population over 15 years old in the North of South Sudan is Sudanese (over 99 per cent).<sup>10</sup>

In the South, the largest group of refugees are citizens of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (47 per cent), followed by Ethiopia (26 per cent) and then Sudan (9 per cent). Most registered refugees over 15 in the North were born in Sudan

(93 per cent), followed by Ethiopia (5 per cent). In the South, most refugees over 15 were born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (46 per cent), Ethiopia (24 per cent), and South Sudan (6 per cent).<sup>11</sup>

FIGURE 4 COUNTRY OF BIRTH



# Identity documents



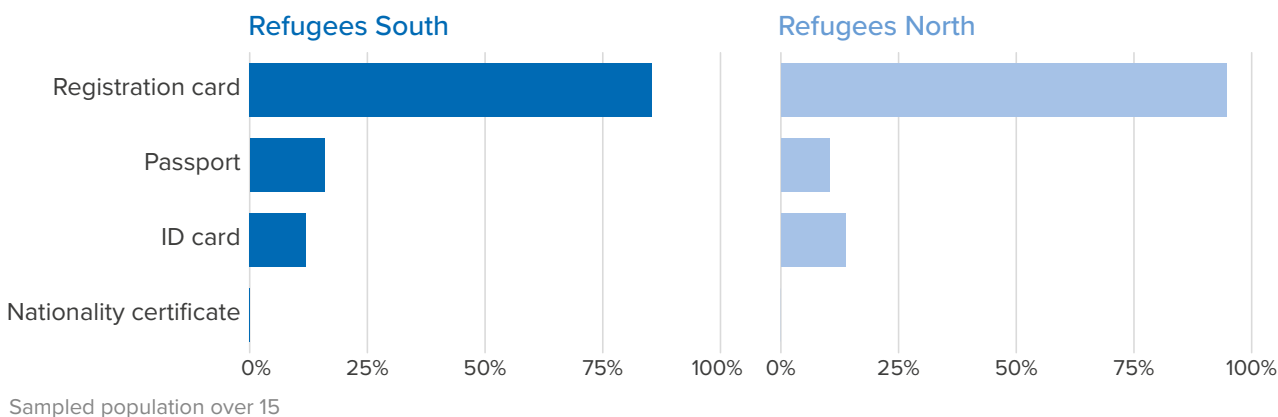
The majority of registered refugees aged 15 and older have at least one identity document. In the North, 95 per cent of refugees have a refugee identity card, while in the South the share is slightly lower, at 85 per cent.

<sup>10</sup> See Introduction for an overview of which regions are classified as North and South.

<sup>11</sup> As South Sudan gained independence in 2011, no person over 15 can have been born in the country. These individuals were probably born in Sudan in territory that is now South Sudan.

Other identification documents are less common, with fewer than one in five refugees over 15 owning a passport (11 per cent in both the North and South) or government-issued IDs (14 per cent in the North and 12 per cent in the South).

FIGURE 5 IDENTITY DOCUMENTS



## Birth notification or registration



Among registered refugees in the North, 96 per cent of children under five received a birth notification. The share is similar in the South at 89 per cent.

Birth notifications and vaccination cards are issued by health facilities and UNHCR and, pending the rollout of birth registration and government-issued birth certificates, are the only available document for many refugees to prove their child’s identity. Birth notification or registration documents are less common among the host community in the North, at 57 per cent of children under five.

FIGURE 6 BIRTH NOTIFICATION/REGISTRATION



Randomly selected children aged nine months to five years in sampled households

# Displacement history



In the North, the median number of years that refugees have lived in South Sudan is 11. In the South it is even higher, at 13.

The FDS does not include refugees who were displaced during the recent conflict in Sudan, which began in April 2023. At the start of data collection, many of the refugees who were forced to flee to South Sudan have been in the country for a long time, highlighting the protracted refugee situation.

FIGURE 7 YEARS SPENT IN SOUTH SUDAN



Sampled refugees who have not always lived in South Sudan

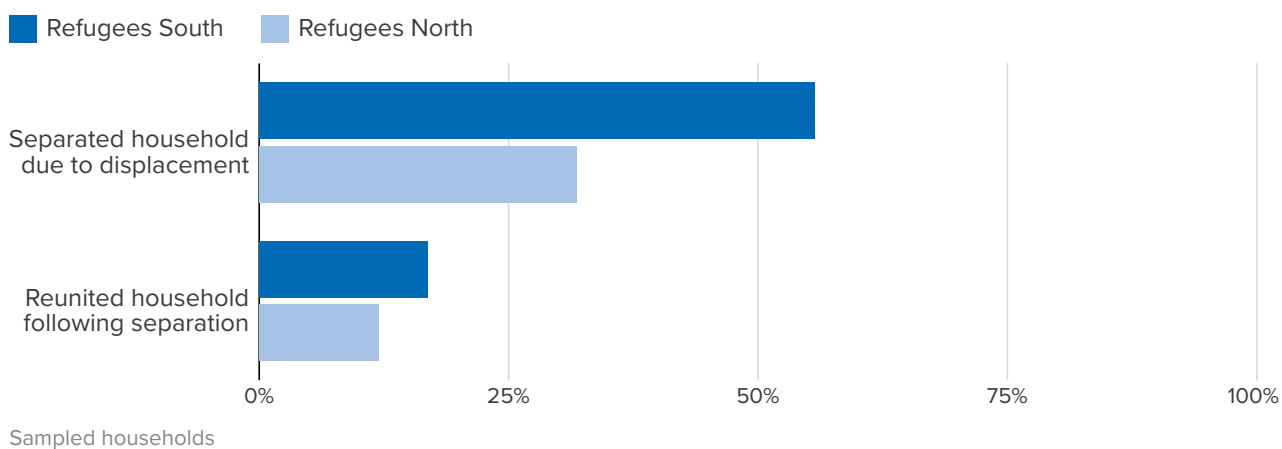
# Separated households



More than half of refugee households in the South were separated at the time of displacement (56 per cent), meaning that at least one member of the household stayed behind in the country of origin while others fled.

In the North the share is around one-third (32 per cent), although there is a large difference in separation rates of households in Maban and Pariang (18 and 53 per cent, respectively). Of those households that were initially separated, less than one in three in the South reunited. In the North, the share is only slightly higher.

FIGURE 8 SEPARATED HOUSEHOLDS



“For now, here, it is safe,” says Amira Khalifa Husien. She fled war in Sudan in 2011. After she first arrived, she considered returning, but now she has eight children to care for. Around 70 per cent of refugees from Sudan either don’t plan to return or say it will depend on the situation in Sudan.

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# Intention to return

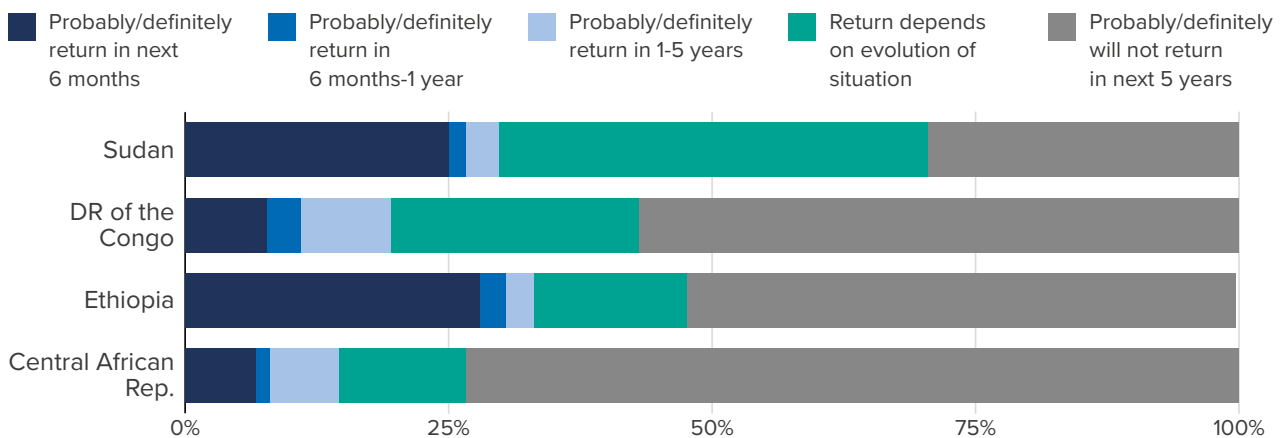


The eruption of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, during the first month of data collection, is likely to have changed many Sudanese households' intentions to return.

However, at the time of the survey, 27 per cent of refugee households from Sudan, mainly residing in the North of South Sudan, considered a return likely or certain in the next year, while 41 per cent reported that they will decide whether to return based on how the situation in Sudan develops.

In the second-largest group of refugees, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a smaller share of household heads think a return in the next year is likely (11 per cent). The majority do not plan to return at any point in the next five years (57 per cent).

FIGURE 9 INTENTION TO RETURN TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



Sampled households. Some countries omitted due to small sample size.