

## Refugee arrivals in White Nile State, Sudan

### Overview

- Since 8 April 2025, White Nile State has seen an increase in refugees and asylum-seekers arriving from South Sudan. According to the Commission of Refugees (COR), **approximately 25,400 South Sudanese refugees**, the majority women and children, have crossed into the state since April.
- It was noted that refugees and asylum-seekers are self-settling into existing camps, seeking shelter with family and friends. Individuals of Nuer ethnicity are primarily settling in the Um Sangour refugee camp, while those of Shiluk ethnicity are moving to the Aljameya refugee camp, although all ten refugee camps in White Nile State have seen an increase in population.
- Most of the South Sudanese who have arrived are fleeing from Wad Dakona, Aborje, Tonja, Kadok, Malakal, Wau Shilluk, Auya, Wantong, Renk, and Algaigar localities in Upper Nile State, South Sudan and are using the Almeginis, Alkuaeik and Joda border points. The majority of the new arrivals are from the Nuer and Shilluk ethnic groups. Insecurity, inter-communal violence, and the overall deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Upper Nile State are cited as the main reasons for flight.
- UNHCR and COR are ready to commence profiling of newly arriving refugees and asylum-seekers in camps and at the Joda Reception Centre once the authorities have completed screening. This profiling will verify population figures and gather basic protection information of those newly arrived prior to registration in UNHCR's database ProGres.
- UNHCR and partners have identified existing communal shelters in Aljameya and Khor Alwaral refugee camps, and additional land in Um Sangour refugee camp to accommodate new arrivals. Additional resources are required for UNHCR and partners to upgrade and expand WASH, health, and shelter services to accommodate the new refugee arrivals.



Newly arriving refugees and asylum-seekers from South Sudan receive hygiene promotion messages at Joda Reception Centre in White Nile State, Sudan. © UNHCR

## Access and Security Update

- In recent weeks, Kosti city, White Nile State has been targeted by drones and although the city has so far been unaffected by direct conflict, the risk of localized instability, further internal displacement, and intermittent restrictions on humanitarian access is still high. Additionally, the presence of armed groups and recent attacks north of Al-Gitaina locality, White Nile State have led to heightened fears among host communities and significant internal displacement into Al-Gitaina town. The instability in Upper Nile State, South Sudan is contributing to an increased movement of people towards Sudan.
- These population movements are exacerbating the humanitarian needs and underscore the impact of localised and cross-border insecurity on Sudan particularly in White Nile State.

## Displacement

- According to [IOM DTM](#), as of 23 March 2025, some 650,000 internally displaced people were sheltering in over 1,300 locations across White Nile State.
- Prior to the recent influx from South Sudan, the authorities estimated that around 410,000 South Sudanese refugees were living in ten refugee camps and urban areas in White Nile State. Of this number, approximately 129,200 people had self-relocated since April 2023 from other parts of the country in search of safety. As of 6 May 2025, COR estimated that 25,400 South Sudanese nationals had crossed into Sudan since early April due to instability and conflict in South Sudan. This brings the estimated total number of South Sudanese in White Nile State to approximately 435,400.
- The majority of the newly arriving South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers are predominantly from the Nuer and Shiluk ethnic groups comprising mainly women and children. Protection monitoring in camps and border areas indicate that many of the refugees and asylum-seekers are extremely vulnerable. Also, many are not entering Sudan using the official Joda border crossing point due to stringent screening procedures in South Sudan and are instead using unofficial points of Almeginis and Alkuaeik. The continued influx into White Nile State and its refugee camps is putting additional strain on already overstretched health care, water, hygiene and sanitation services.

### Distribution of South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers (as at 6 May 2025)

Locality	Location	Households	Individuals
Alsalam (West of the River Nile)	Aljameya refugee camp	84	469
	Khor Alwaral refugee camp	59	178
	Um Sangour refugee camp	1,677	14,545
	Al Redis 1 refugee camp	100	500
	Al Redis 2 refugee camp	178	1,008
	Alkashafa refugee camp	15	67
	Jourie refugee camp	35	200
Al Jabalain (East of the River Nile)	Dabat Bosin refugee camp	662	4,661
	Alagaya/ Algana refugee camps	475	2,375
	Joda Reception Centre	355	1,412
		3,640	25,415

Source: COR

## Response

- UNHCR, COR and partners have developed a contingency plan outlining the critical actions, roles and responsibilities in the event of a refugee influx, to guide preparedness, advocacy and resource mobilization efforts.
- UNHCR and COR undertook joint field missions to the Joda Reception Centre and the refugee camps to assess the readiness of existing facilities and services and identify gaps which need to be scaled up to effectively respond to potential influxes.
- UNHCR is advocating with the authorities for a simplified security screening process for newly arrived South Sudanese refugees. Considering that 95 percent of the new arrivals are women and children, expedited procedures are essential to facilitate timely registration and ensure access to life-saving assistance and services.
- In the interim, UNHCR has distributed 2,000 NFI kits which contain essential supplies to support newly arriving refugees and asylum-seekers to settle in their location of displacement.
- At the Joda Reception Centre, the Ministry of Health is conducting medical screening and administering vaccinations while the Sudanese Red Crescent Society is providing psychosocial support and managing the child-friendly space.
- UNHCR and partners have scaled up desludging of latrines, rehabilitation of WASH facilities and expanded the water supply at the Joda Reception Centre. Additionally, hygiene awareness campaigns were carried out by 225 trained community promoters across all ten refugee camps and at the Joda Reception Centre, reaching nearly 86,000 people with hygiene and risk communication messages.



Desludging of latrines at Joda Reception Centre in White Nile State, Sudan. © UNHCR

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### CONTACT

UNHCR Sudan External Relations Unit | Email: [sudkhextrel@unhcr.org](mailto:sudkhextrel@unhcr.org)

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