

South Sudan

June 2025

South Sudan hosts over **500,000** refugees and asylum seekers with Sudan as the primary country of origin accounting for **95%** of refugees, followed by DRC (**3%**), and Ethiopia (**1%**). Most refugees, (**63%**) reside in refugee camps across the country, **12%** live in rural areas while **25%** live in urban settings.

Since the onset of the **Sudan crisis**, over **one million** people have arrived in South Sudan seeking safety. Of these, (**68%**) are South Sudanese nationals returning home, whilst the rest include over **350,000** Sudanese refugees as well as smaller numbers of other foreign nationals.

Beyond the Sudan response, UNHCR also assists some **1.9 million** people forcibly displaced by intercommunal violence, including conflict in Upper Nile State that has displaced over **130,000** since March 2025, as well as flooding and other climate-related shocks.

Population Figures

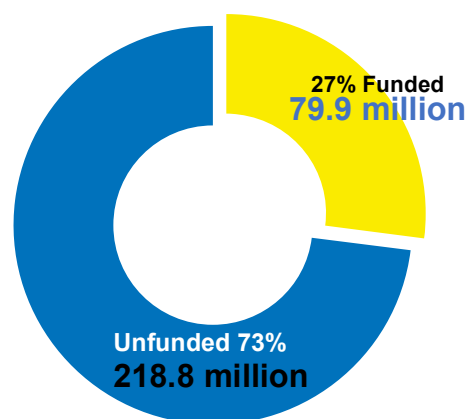
Refugees & Asylum Seekers	555,814
IDPs	1.9 million
Returnees	1.6 million

Country of Origin

Sudan	527,951
DRC	14,329
Ethiopia	6,077
Eritrea	3,455

USD 298.7 million

requested for South Sudan as of 30 April 2025



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

339 National Staff
 80 International Staff

Offices:

- 01** Country Office in **Juba**
- 02** Sub Office in **Maban** and **Jamjang**
- 06** Field Offices in **Aweil**, **Bentiu**, **Bor**, **Malakal**, **Renk** and **Yei**
- 05** Field Units in **Abyei**, **Juba**, **Torit**, **Wau** and **Yambio**



UNHCR staff supporting a Sudanese refugee in Renk Transit Centre, Upper Nile State © UNHCR/October 2024

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works closely with the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) on the refugee response, Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) in returnee and IDP settings, and the Directorate of Civil Registry, Nationality, Passports, and Immigration (DCRNPI) to address statelessness.
- UNHCR also cooperates with UNMISS on a "Principles of Partnership" since 2021 to jointly advance peace and the pursuit of durable solutions. There is also effective collaboration between UN Agencies, UNMISS, NGOs and other organisations to advance progress towards the South Sudan Action Plan on Return, Reintegration, and Recovery: 2024-2028 and the 2024 South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, IDP's, Returnees and Host Communities.
- UNHCR actively engages with the UN Humanitarian Country Team and leads the Protection and CCCM clusters.
- UNHCR also works with over 18 NGOs (14 international and 4 national NGOs) to implement its programmes.
- Moreover, UNHCR's localization agenda emphasizes empowering local actors by partnering with four local NGOs and coordinating with local authorities, communities, and refugees, to ensure they play a central role in the response.

Key Priorities

In recent years, South Sudan has faced increasing political instability, a resumption in intercommunal violence, a worsening economic crisis intensified by ongoing conflict in Sudan, severe flooding, and other climate-related shocks. Approximately **69%** of South Sudan's 13.4 million population require some form of humanitarian assistance in 2025. These needs have intensified against a backdrop of shrinking resources and a fatigued funding environment. As a result, UNHCR has had to change its working modalities and reprioritise, focusing on delivering critical life-saving assistance to those most in need, while also advancing sustainable solutions and area-based approaches.

Level 3 Emergency: Responding with lifesaving support.

- In response to the Sudan emergency, UNHCR rapidly scaled up to meet urgent protection and humanitarian needs at border, transit, and refugee-hosting sites.
- UNHCR, together with the Government of South Sudan and IOM, are present at **27** border points monitoring arrivals; and has established **12** transit/reception centres across the country where new arrivals can access basic health, protection, food, and shelter assistance, before receiving onward transportation to their areas of origin for returnees or to refugee receiving camps and settlements. Once settled, refugees receive access to already established health, education, protection, shelter and water and sanitation (WASH) assistance.

Protection: Upholding fundamental human rights

- UNHCR works closely with the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) to build **national asylum** capacity, **advocate with authorities** to uphold the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers, and support national inclusion of those displaced in national services such as education, healthcare, and birth registration.
- UNHCR also works with displaced and local communities to carry out regular **protection monitoring** in locations with internal displacement and refugee return, while also leading coordination with humanitarian actors under the Protection and CCCM cluster.

Solutions: Building hope for a better future

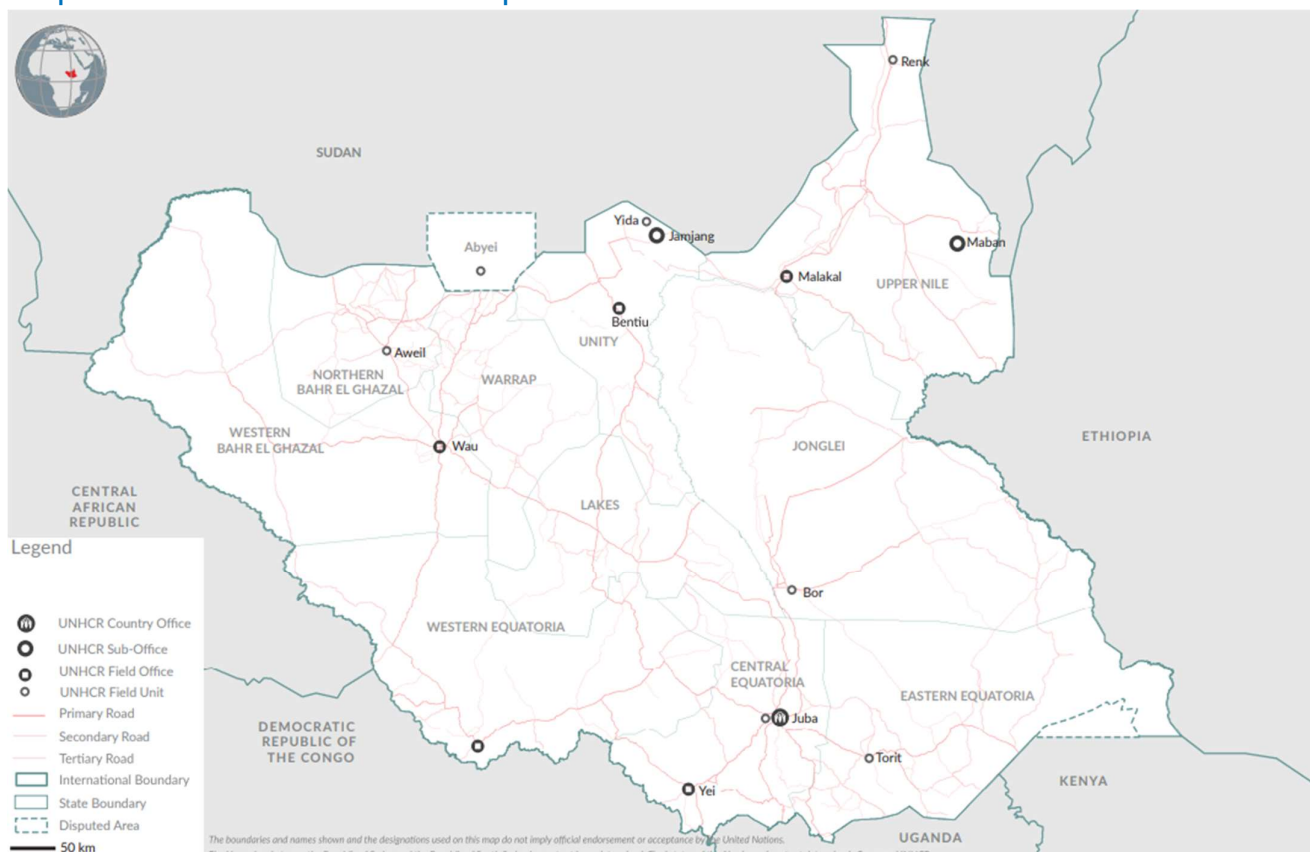
- UNHCR provides technical support and advocacy for endorsement of the **South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy** to lay the legal foundation for solutions to forced displacement, while operationalizing solutions.
- Joint efforts ongoing with UNMISS and UN agencies to support the implementation of the **2018 Peace Agreement (R-ARCSS)** including restoring transitional justice mechanism and facilitating the IDP and refugee returnees' participation in the permanent constitution making process and election consultations.
- Supporting the Government of South Sudan in implementing the **Global Refugee Forum pledges** in Education, Livelihoods, Energy and Infrastructure, Solutions, and Statelessness.
- Leverage UNHCR's convening role and building **partnership with developmental actions** including World Bank, Africa Development Bank, and EU INTPA.

- UNHCR also plays a key role in South Sudan's area-based coordination, supporting refugees, IDPs, and returnees through protection, education, and livelihood programs. Leading coordination efforts in Malakal, Upper Nile State, UNHCR works with the government and partners to implement durable solutions, such as land allocation, shelter construction, and basic services. Its approach aligns with the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus, ensuring a transition from emergency aid to sustainable development and resilience-building.

Main Challenges & Unmet Needs

- Unpredictable Funding Climate:** Recent political shifts, economic downturns, and donor fatigue have led to inconsistent funding for humanitarian efforts in South Sudan. This has forced a reprioritisation of activities and hindered long-term planning.
- Poor infrastructure,** flooding, heavy rains, sporadic violence, and security incidents, resulting in accessibility issues, security, and logistical challenges.
- Lack of high-level political push for GRF pledges** and resource commitments to solutions for displacement issues, limited capacity of government to deliver on its responsibilities.

Map of UNHCR South Sudan Operational Presence



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For more information, please contact Senior External Relations Officer Carla Calvo calvoc@unhcr.org