

SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION

October 2025



Nyadet Dieng Jak relocates her family to higher ground in Luakdong site, Gambella region of Ethiopia after fleeing conflict in South Sudan. © UNHCR/Sona Dadi

Highlights

- Since February 2025, 190,000 South Sudanese have sought refuge in countries neighboring South Sudan, including an estimated 45,000 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 39,000 in Ethiopia, 75,000 in Sudan, and 30,000 in Uganda. This number adds to 2.4 million refugees displaced before 2025. Over 132,000 Sudanese refugees returned to Sudan from South Sudan in recent months.
- Limited humanitarian access poses significant challenges to the timely and effective delivery of life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable communities in South Sudan and the neighboring countries. The limitations are caused by conflict-related insecurity, extreme weather conditions and remoteness of locations hosting the displaced.
- South Sudan has experienced severe and widespread flooding, with conditions worsening across multiple states. As of 31 October, flooding had affected an estimated 1,024,500 people in 29 counties across six states, with Jonglei and Unity states accounting for nearly 87 per cent of those impacted.

Situation and Operational Response

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- Armed confrontations have continued amid ongoing political uncertainty and leadership challenges within the government. The First Vice President remains under house arrest with judicial proceedings ongoing. These developments risk the sustainability of the 2018 revitalized peace agreement.
- The protection environment in South Sudan remains severely constrained by insecurity, recurrent climatic shocks, and limited resources. These challenges significantly undermine the capacity of humanitarian actors to deliver a response across all sectors.
- South Sudan continues to face severe and widespread flooding, with conditions deteriorating across multiple states. The priority needs of the communities include food and livelihood support, health and nutrition services, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter and non-food items, as well as protection services.
- UNHCR is scaling up life-saving assistance across Unity, Jonglei, and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. Support to flood-affected communities included the distribution of relief items to 3,560 individuals, the rehabilitation of a 425-metre dyke, community sensitization on flood mitigation, and protection monitoring.

Population Movements

According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)¹ report for October, flooding has displaced 31,222 individuals. In addition, over 190,000 people are estimated to have fled South Sudan to neighboring countries, while an additional 326,000 have been newly displaced within the country by the end of October, due to conflict.

In Western Equatoria, airstrikes targeting Sudan People's Liberation Army-In Opposition (SPLA-IO) positions triggered mass displacement, forcing civilians to seek refuge within host communities. According to local sources from the State Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), approximately 7,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have since returned to shelter in schools and with families in Nagero County, while others have moved toward Bazia in Wau.

Protection

In Jonglei State, particularly in and around Bor, insecurity and recent flooding have compounded logistical and safety challenges, leaving displaced people and returnees in remote and flood-affected areas with limited access to essential services including access to specialized gender-based violence (GBV) services and community-based support mechanisms.

The closure of protection activities implemented by the Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC), in Fangak, Nyirol, Uror, Mingkaman, and Ayod counties has disrupted protection interventions, reducing community outreach, case management, and monitoring of human rights violations for IDPs and returnees in areas with security risks and flood hazards.

In Upper Nile State, children in Ulang, Nassir, Maiwut, Longechuk, and Panyikang counties are continuously facing barriers to education due to repeated displacement and the absence of a consistent education partner. A joint mission by UNHCR and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Malakal highlighted the impact of being out of school including the impact on the development and well-being of the children, the risks of child labor, child marriage, family separation, and child recruitment.

In Akobo and Ayod, profiling of persons with specific needs is ongoing to facilitate cash assistance for households affected by flooding and conflict, particularly in communities facing recurrent floods.

¹ <https://dtm.iom.int/south-sudan>

Non-food items (NFIs)

On 2 October, UNHCR's team in Malakal and HDC conducted a mission to Canal and Ashabnile to assess the impact of the conflict and flooding. An estimated 1,086 households (2,983 individuals) had been displaced to the nearby Canal Highlands. According to local authorities, the displaced population is currently hosted in Kolthok, Kuerial, Phanhom, Mareng, and Dolieb.

In response to severe flooding across Upper Nile State, UNHCR and HDC, provided NFI assistance to 800 households (10,243 individuals) in Pigi County, Wau Shilluk, and New Fangak. In Pigi County, 400 households (6,549 individuals) in Canal, Panom, and Korofulus Payams received plastic sheets, blankets, sleeping mats, jerrycans, kitchen sets, and soap after relocating to higher ground in Panom, Canal Highland, Doleib, and Asbailnile. In Wau Shilluk, 200 households (2,734 individuals), mainly persons with specific needs, were supported with similar relief items. 800 women and girls of reproductive age received dignity kits containing underwear and washing soap.

Assessment activities are ongoing across Upper Nile State to identify the most vulnerable individuals displaced by flooding who will benefit from emergency shelter support.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- Household (Level 1) registration at the new registration centre in Tormorok site, Gambella region reached 41,951 individuals by end of October.

Population Movements and Registration

The Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and UNHCR pursued Level 1 registration for newly arrived asylum-seekers and refugees, capturing basic personal details and preliminary data.

Relocation of registered refugees to Luakdong camp was suspended on 18 October due to flooding, though Level 1 registration continued at Tormorok site. So far 21,333 refugees have been relocated.

Protection

UNHCR, RRS, and partners have continued the construction of the new refugee site at Luakdong, and are delivering essential, life-saving services to refugees and asylum seekers, including those in surrounding communities like the nearby village of Tormorok.

By 12 October, registered refugees awaiting relocation were transported from Muon/Matar to Luakdong. Plan International provided newly relocated families with orientation and sensitization on GBV and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) while Action Africa Help International (AAHI) distributed relief items.

GBV and child protection case management, awareness-raising, and capacity-building activities continued at both Luakdong and Tormorok. A temporary safe space for persons with specific needs was established at Luakdong, along with a Complaint and Feedback Mechanism in line with Accountability to Affected People (AAP) principles.

Site Development, Shelter, Non-food Items (NFIs)

UNHCR's partner Development Expertise Centre (DEC) constructed 1,049 emergency upgradeable shelters, while 873 households received shelter kits, including plastic sheets, poles, rope, and nails to build their own shelters at Luakdong. Between 3 and 19 October, AAHI distributed NFI kits to 1,812 households.

The community began the construction of a dyke to prevent further flooding at Luakdong, with machinery provided by DEC. DEC also made significant progress on laying the first layer of the access road.

At Luakdong, flood mitigation works continue at a slow pace due to recurring mechanical issues, such as frequent breakdown of heavy machinery and equipment, delays in spare parts procurement, and limited technical capacity for repairs. Support is urgently needed to provide extra machinery, pumps, spare parts, maintenance kits, deployment of technical teams for on-site repairs, fuel and logistical, and capacity-building for local operators.

Health & Nutrition

Vaccination and supplementation for new arrivals continued with support from the Regional Health Bureau and UNICEF. During the reporting period, 113 new cholera cases and one death were recorded, bringing the cumulative total to 567 cases and two deaths. The cholera response was intensified through the Regional Health Bureau's Emergency Operations Cell, adopting an inter-agency approach that engaged partners in the health and WASH sectors. In response to rising cholera cases in Tormorok occasioned by flooding and congestion, IRC relocated its Cholera Treatment Centre to the area.

Healthcare services in Tormorok managed by UNHCR's partner GOAL encountered a surging demand, exceeding the availability of services. In response, *Collegio Universitario Aspiranti Medici Missionari* (CUAMM) will relocate its mobile clinic from Gade to Tormorok. CUAMM and GOAL operate primary healthcare (PHC) facilities in Tormorok, while CUAMM maintains a mobile clinic in Muon. At Luakdong, Development for Peace Organization (DPO) continued providing primary health care services, relocating its clinic to the Luakdong junction due to flooding.

Targeted supplementary feeding continued, with GOAL providing hot meals and Danish Church Aid (DCA) operating a fresh food market. Malnutrition screening and treatment continued across all locations, with Global Acute Malnutrition rates rising alarmingly to 22% among children under five and 30% among pregnant and lactating women. Infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E) programs reached over 17,000 individuals with health and nutrition education. However, critical shortages of malnutrition treatment supplies remain a major concern, compounded by insufficient resources to roll out a blanket supplementary feeding program.

Flooding at the entrance of the food distribution site prompted the selection of a new site within Luakdong, which may delay the next general food distribution (GFD). In the interim, WFP and World Vision distributed High Energy Biscuits to registered individuals who missed the last GFD.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Oxfam completed the installation of a 1.5 km pipeline from the Luakdong junction to the reception area, boosting water supply capacity and reducing the long distances refugees walk to collect water. Water supply at Luakdong averaged 14.2 litres per person per day, slightly below the SPHERE minimum of 15 litres per person per day. Latrine coverage at Luakdong improved to 1:50 persons, still below the SPHERE standard of 1:20.

Water trucking continued to Tormorok, with Oxfam organizing the water storage for distribution. In addition, 16 of the planned 36 latrines have been completed, with construction of the remaining 20 underway.

Hygiene campaigns were launched by Oxfam and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), to mark World Handwashing Day. 57 hygiene workers are engaged in awareness-raising and cleaning activities. Ongoing hygiene promotion prioritizes cholera prevention. Additional campaigns in Luakdong and Tormorok targeted, jerrycan cleaning, environmental sanitation, and latrine maintenance.

SUDAN

Highlights

- As of 31 October, over 132,000 Sudanese refugees had returned from South Sudan. Many are in gathering sites primarily in Blue Nile State and others have returned to their places of origin, despite limited access to essential services.

Population Movement

Over 2,900 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan during the reporting period, bringing the total number of new arrivals in 2025 to an estimated 75,365. The majority are hosted in White Nile State (43%), followed by Blue Nile (23%), South Kordofan (14%), West Kordofan (12%), and East Darfur, with smaller proportions in South and North Darfur.

South Sudanese refugees from El Fasher continue to arrive in Tawila. Efforts are underway to ensure that all new arrivals are promptly registered.

In White Nile State, movements at the Joda border remain spontaneous and largely incident-free. Although formal border monitoring activities are still suspended, some South Sudanese new arrivals who crossed through unofficial border points were recorded during the reporting period.

Protection

In White Nile State, refugee camps are overcrowded, with eight out of ten camps now hosting populations more than double their intended capacity. This congestion has heightened health, sanitation, and protection risks. Local communities are increasingly opposing further camp expansion, particularly in areas where the refugee population has surpassed that of host communities.

UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, conducted awareness sessions in West Kordofan State, reaching South Sudanese refugees, IDPs, and the host community. The sessions targeted community leaders, women, and youth, and covered topics such as preventing teenage pregnancy, child marriage, harmful traditional practices, life skills, children's rights, and GBV.

In East Darfur, 50 home visits were conducted, reaching 217 children and their caregivers with psychosocial support and hygiene awareness. Additionally, 14 psychosocial support and recreational sessions reached 302 refugee children with storytelling and games designed to promote emotional well-being and strengthen resilience.

Health and Nutrition

In White Nile State, cholera outbreaks have been reported in areas hosting new arrivals and in surrounding locations. In October 2025, at least 237 cholera cases were recorded among South Sudanese refugees and have continued to emerge since the onset of the epidemic. UNHCR, alongside the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, and other partners, continue to respond despite significant gaps in both health and WASH interventions.

In West Kordofan State, 30 refugee and host community children living with disabilities in El Meriam and Tibon received nutritional support packages containing sugar, rice, lentils, powdered milk, cooking oil, and sorghum.

Food Security

In White Nile State, during the October 2025 GFD, WFP provided 338,670 South Sudanese refugees across the White Nile camps slightly increased rations compared to previous months, with 70% of the oil entitlement, 70% of cereals, and 50% of salt distributed.

In East Darfur State, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society in collaboration with WFP distributed sorghum, rice, and cooking oil to 3,252 South Sudanese refugee households.

In North Darfur, food distribution for South Sudanese refugees in Al Lait was completed in five of the 13 targeted locations.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

In White Nile State, UNHCR and partners provided safe drinking water to 497,000 South Sudanese new arrivals, refugees and host communities, through the maintenance of 10 existing water systems, complemented by water trucking in Al Jamya camp.

UGANDA

Highlights

- Uganda continues to receive new arrivals from South Sudan, primarily from the Nuer, Kakwa, Kuku, Pajulu, and Dinka communities. Most enter through the Nimule and Oraba border points Eastern Equatoria State, fleeing inter-communal violence, severe flooding around Bentiu, or pursuing family reunification.

Registration

As of 31 October, Uganda had registered 43,853 South Sudanese refugees since the start of the year, with most granted refugee status upon arrival. Rhino Camp Settlement has received the largest number (40%) of the new arrivals in 2025.

Protection

The security situation across settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees remained generally stable. UNHCR and partners support refugee leaders in community sensitization to promote the civilian character of the settlements and peaceful coexistence.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Water access across West Nile settlements was at an average of 20 liters per person per day, but varied in some locations, like Rhino Settlement, where it fell to 13.98 liters per person per day. This shortfall was

attributed to aging motorized systems, frequent mechanical breakdowns, fuel shortages, and high demand in densely populated areas. In response, partners undertook borehole rehabilitation, serviced water systems, and advocated for increased fuel allocations to sustain pumping hours.

Hygiene promotion activities and water quality monitoring continued across all settlements. No outbreaks of waterborne diseases were reported during the period, indicating effective preventive measures and sustained community engagement.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Highlights

- Persistent insecurity and armed clashes in Morobo District, South Sudan, continues to drive increasing numbers of refugees to cross into Aru Territory in Ituri Province.
- The humanitarian situation remains alarming, with urgent needs in protection, food assistance, health, WASH, and emergency shelter. The estimated budget required to respond to these needs amount to USD 5,625,166, yet only USD 407,000 has been received to date, a 72 per cent funding gap that threatens the ability to deliver a timely and adequate response.

Population Movements

To date, the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) has profiled 33,211 South Sudanese refugees, representing 6,642 households, in Okaba, Gole, and Arile/Ulendere, Ituri Province.

New arrivals continue to cross the border, and indications are that approximately 9,000 unprofiled asylum seekers are dispersed across at least nine localities within the Kaliko and Kakwa chiefdoms, Ituri Province. This is increasing pressure on the already limited resources of host communities and heightening the need for urgent humanitarian support.

Protection

Significant progress has been achieved, with joint missions by UNHCR, CNR, and partners to the Kaliko-OMI and Kakwa chiefdoms on 29 October, resulting in the validation of four relocation and three registration sites. Authorities have officially allocated land, enabling operations to commence.

UNHCR has also launched sensitization on registration and relocation to encourage asylum seekers to relocate from risky border locations. Over the next few weeks, UNHCR will launch biometric registration, followed by the relocation of the most vulnerable households to the validated sites.

UNHCR is concerned about the growing protection concerns, including the risk of survival sex among women in the border locality of Nyayi. AAP mechanisms will be established, and protection monitoring will be reinforced, with a strong focus on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse and supporting women at risk of survival sex. Inter-agency coordination will continue to ensure that minimum basic services are in place upon the arrival of relocated populations.

Health

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continues to provide health services through four mobile clinics in Gole, Okaba, Ulendere, and Karagba, with plans to deploy a fifth clinic in Nyayi, all located in Haut-Uélé Province.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

MSF is supporting WASH interventions by distributing 5,980 hygiene kits, chlorinating water points, and maintaining epidemiological surveillance in reception areas to curb the risk of disease outbreaks.

KENYA

Kenya has not observed any spike in new arrivals from South Sudan but continues to receive new refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

South Sudan: Preparedness and Initial Response Needs, May – October 2025

UNHCR is [seeking \\$36.25 million](#) to strengthen preparedness and deliver initial life-saving protection and assistance to up to 40,000 new IDPs in South Sudan and up to 303,000 new refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees in neighboring countries.

Resources

- UNHCR's [Operational Data Portal \(ODP\) for the South Sudan Situation](#) provides weekly updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in South Sudan's neighbouring countries.
- [South Sudan: Preparedness and initial Response needs, May – October 2025](#).

UNHCR is grateful for the support of:

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Context

UNHCR is closely monitoring the displacement and protection situation in South Sudan, following a sharp escalation of violence and insecurity since February 2025.

While the armed conflict concentrated in Upper Nile State and Jonglei State, there are pockets of fighting in other parts of the country, triggering population movements both within South Sudan and across its borders.

Since March, some 190,000 people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, including an estimated 75,000 in the Sudan about 45,000 in DRC, 39,000 in Ethiopia, and around 30,000 in Uganda. Within South Sudan, DTM reports that approximately 326,000 people have been newly displaced in all locations affected by the conflict since February 2025.

Key figures

 **190K**

New arrivals from South Sudan

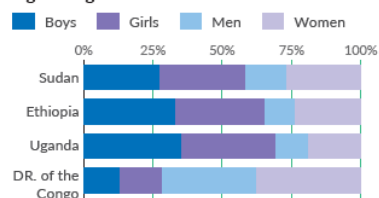
 **55%**

of new arrivals are children

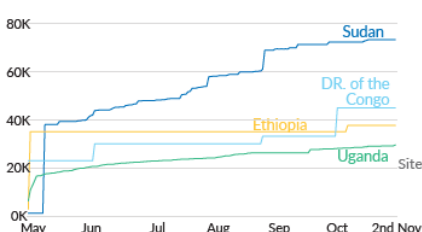
 **326K**

Estimated new IDPs

Age and gender breakdown of new arrivals



Cumulative new arrivals in neighbouring countries

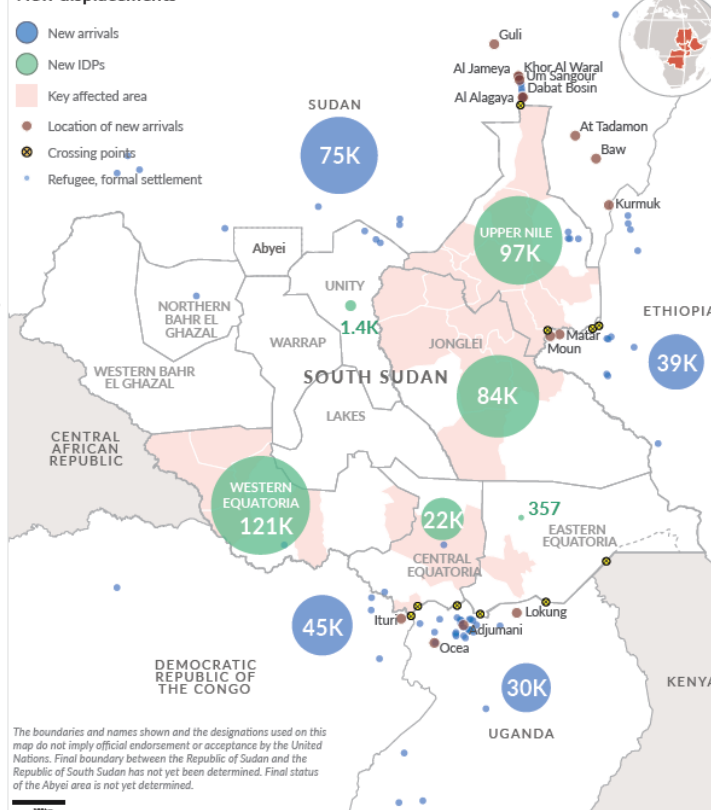


Sources: UNHCR, Governments

Number of partners per country and sector

Sector	DRC	ETH	SDN	UGA
Coordination		2		2
Education	1		1	2
First Aid			4	
Food Security		4	2	2
Health/Nutrition		8	3	3
Livelihood	1			
Protection	1	4	5	3
Registration	1			
Shelter/NFI	1	4	2	2
Site Management			1	
WASH	1	7	3	2

New displacements



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.