

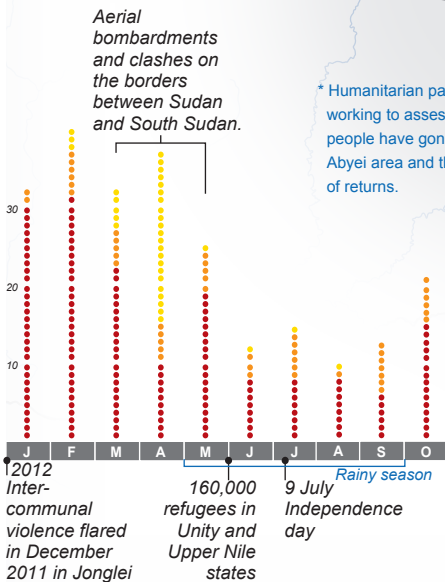
South Sudan continues to face considerable humanitarian challenges, with persistent high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition caused by continued border closure between South Sudan and Sudan, high food and fuel prices, and disrupted agricultural production due to conflict and displacement. Seasonal flooding, though severe, is abating as the dry season nears. About 176,000 refugees from Sudan's Blue Nile and South Kordofan states have sought refuge in Unity and Upper Nile states with new arrivals expected in the near future.

Conflict and displacement

Inter-communal fighting, attacks by non-state actors, and cross-border conflict with Sudan, have affected communities across the country. This year, about 170,000 people have been displaced inside South Sudan due to inter-communal fighting and insecurity.

- Inter-communal fighting
- Other armed incident
- Cross-border attack
- ➔ Conflict-related population movement

237 conflict incidents in 2012

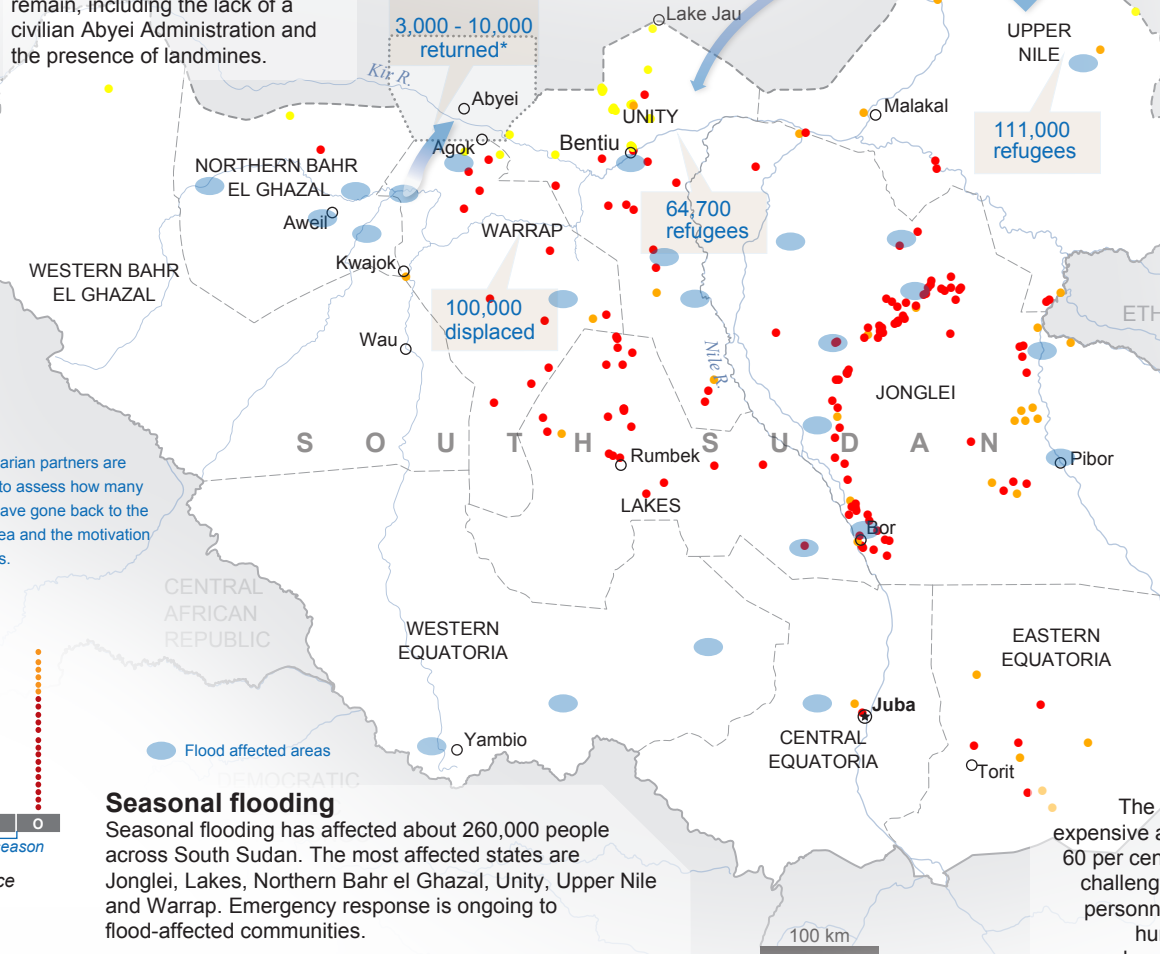


Abyei displaced

The majority of the 110,000 people from the contested Abyei area remain displaced. Low numbers of Abyei displaced have returned since January. Challenges still remain, including the lack of a civilian Abyei Administration and the presence of landmines.

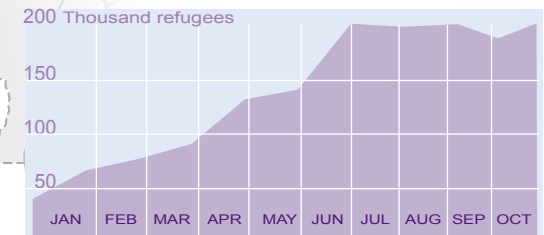
Returns to South Sudan

More than 132,000 South Sudanese have returned from Sudan this year. Emergency assistance is provided to people in transit, and a reinsertion package is given to returnees on arrival at final destination. More than 17,000 returnees are still stranded in transit sites in Renk, Upper Nile State and Juba.



Refugee influx

About 175,000 refugees have fled Sudan's Blue Nile and South Kordofan to Unity and Upper Nile states. New sites are being identified and plans made for the expected arrival of significant numbers of refugees.



Food security

Erratic rains, insecurity, inflation and border closures doubled the number of people requiring food assistance in 2012, from 1.2 million to 2.4 million. However, improved access to food in most areas of the country has been reported with the start of the harvest season, according to the latest FEWS NET food security outlook report.

Emergency response

Aid workers have assisted about 200,000 people affected by conflict, 110,000 people displaced from Abyei over a year ago, and more than 200,000 refugees, the majority from Sudan. There are over 30 ongoing emergency operations.

Humanitarian access

The operating environment in South Sudan is one of the most expensive and difficult in the region, due to poor infrastructure. Up to 60 per cent of the country is cut-off during the rainy season. Access challenges have impacted the safety and security of humanitarian personnel. At least 103 incidents of harassment or interference in humanitarian operations by state actors, and 20 incidents of harassment by non-state actors have been recorded in 2012.

Seasonal flooding

Seasonal flooding has affected about 260,000 people across South Sudan. The most affected states are Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile and Warrap. Emergency response is ongoing to flood-affected communities.