



Aid organizations respond to multiple humanitarian crises in South Sudan, with high levels of food insecurity and a large refugee population driving humanitarian needs. A new wave of Sudanese refugees began to arrive in November, bringing the number of people in South Sudan seeking safety from ongoing conflict in Blue Nile and South Kordofan to more than 180,000.

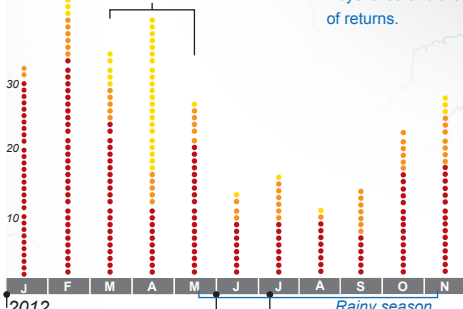
Conflict and displacement

Inter-communal fighting, attacks by non-state armed actors and cross-border conflict with Sudan, have affected communities across the country. This year, about 173,000 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

267 conflict incidents in 2012

Aerial bombardments and clashes on the borders between Sudan and South Sudan.



2012 Inter-communal violence flared in December
about 180,000 refugees in Unity and Upper Nile states
9 July Independence day
Rainy season

Abyei displaced

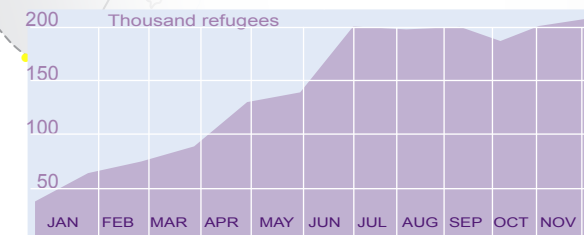
The majority of the 110,000 people from the contested Abyei area remain displaced. Low numbers of Abyei displaced have returned since January. Challenges remain, including the lack of a civilian Abyei administration and the presence of landmines.

Returns to South Sudan

More than 150,000 South Sudanese have returned from Sudan this year. Emergency assistance is provided to people in transit. More than 21,000 returnees are still stranded in transit sites, largely in Renk and Juba.

Refugee influx

About 180,000 refugees have fled Sudan's Blue Nile and South Kordofan states to Unity and Upper Nile states. Increased numbers of new arrivals in recent weeks point to a fresh wave of refugees.



Food security

Insecurity, inflation and border closures doubled the number of people requiring food assistance in 2012, from 1.2 million to 2.4 million. Slight improvements in access to food in most areas were reported with the start of the harvest season, according to the latest FEWS NET food security outlook report.

Emergency response

Aid workers assisted about 173,000 people affected by conflict, 110,000 people displaced from Abyei over a year ago, and about 215,000 refugees. There are over 30 ongoing emergency operations in 52 of the 79 counties.

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access is regularly hampered by poor infrastructure, violence against aid workers, bureaucratic impediments and active hostilities. Up to 60 per cent of the country is cut-off during the rainy season. At least 127 incidents of harassment or interference in humanitarian operations by state actors, and 21 incidents of harassment by non-state actors have been recorded in 2012. Humanitarian actors are working with the Government to advocate for improved access to people in need.

Seasonal flooding

Seasonal flooding affected about 313,000 people with the most affected states being Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile and Warrap. The rains subsided and flooding receded towards the end of November. Emergency responses continued to remaining flood-affected communities.

* Humanitarian partners are working to assess how many people have gone back to the Abyei area and the motivation of returns.