



Over 30 humanitarian crises face South Sudan as 2012 comes to a close. Aid agencies are focused on responding to the needs of over 200,000 refugees, the majority having fled conflict in Sudan. Food insecurity also drives the humanitarian situation, with 2.7 million food insecure people being fed in 2012, as of November. Insecurity in several northern states in December highlighted the fragility of the humanitarian situation.

Conflict and displacement

In 2012, about 183,000 people were displaced inside South Sudan due to 314 incidents relating to inter-communal fighting and insecurity. In Western Bahr el Ghazal, inter-communal tensions affected 630 people. In Northern Bahr el Ghazal, ground and aerial attacks in the disputed Kiir Adem border area displaced about 700 people into Jaac on 26 December. Continued insecurity in Jonglei prevented displaced people from returning home.

Abyei displaced

The majority of the 110,000 people from the contested Abyei area remain displaced. Low numbers of people have returned since the start of 2012. Challenges remain to people returning, including the lack of a civilian administration and the presence of landmines.

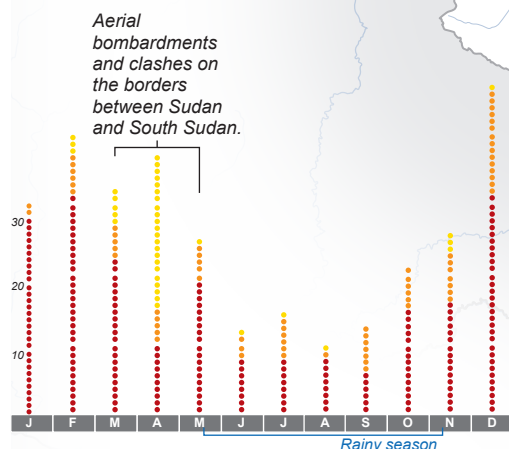
Returns to South Sudan

Close to 154,000 South Sudanese returned Sudan in 2012. Emergency assistance is provided to people in transit. About 20,000 returnees remain stranded in temporary transit sites, largely in Renk, Upper Nile State.

Refugee influx

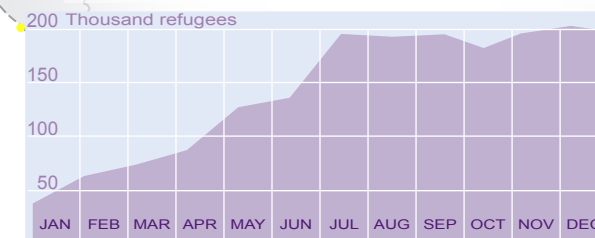
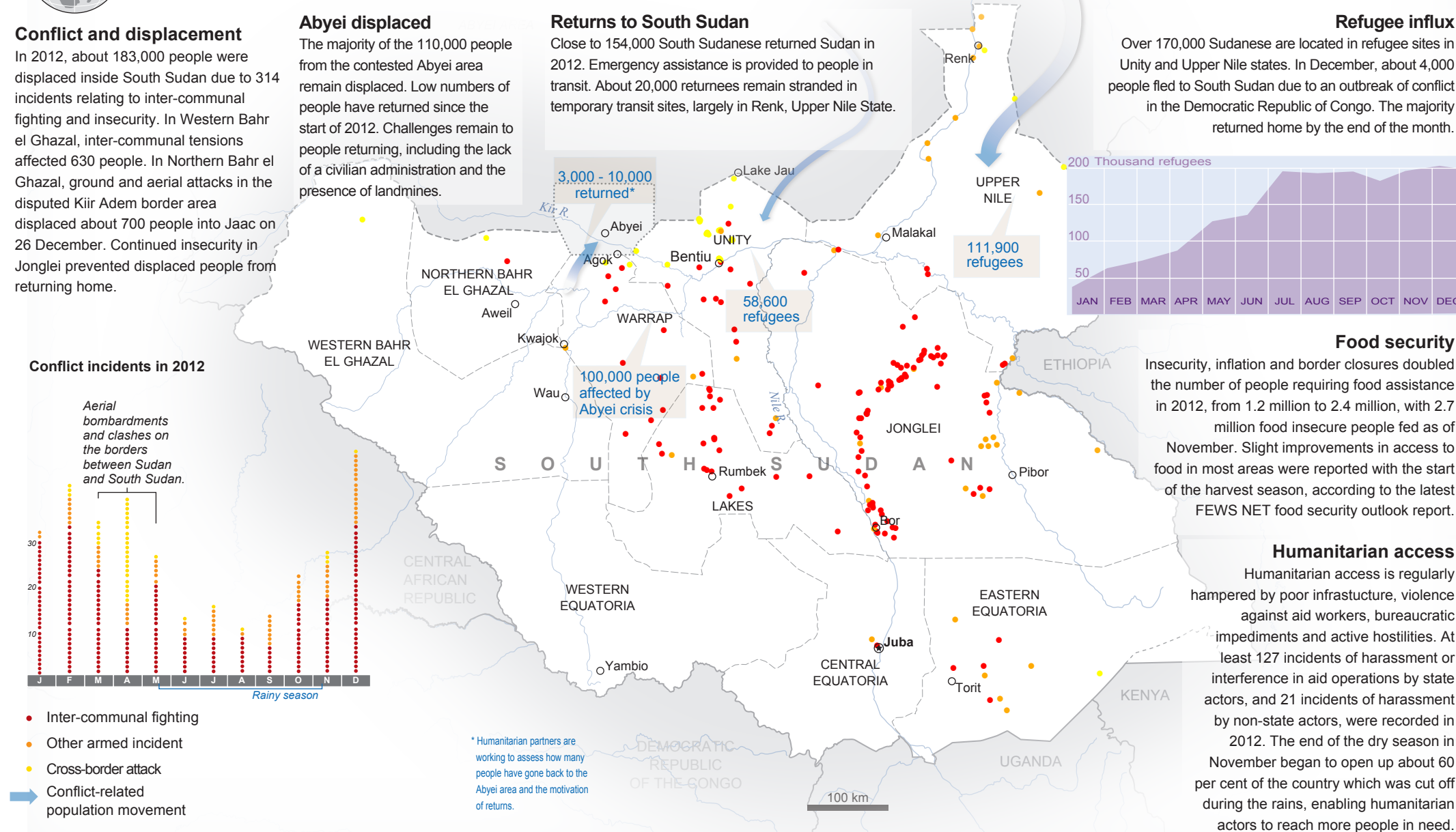
Over 170,000 Sudanese are located in refugee sites in Unity and Upper Nile states. In December, about 4,000 people fled to South Sudan due to an outbreak of conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The majority returned home by the end of the month.

Conflict incidents in 2012



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

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



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, with 2.7 million food insecure people fed as of November. 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.

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access is regularly hampered by poor infrastructure, violence against aid workers, bureaucratic impediments and active hostilities. At least 127 incidents of harassment or interference in aid operations by state actors, and 21 incidents of harassment by non-state actors, were recorded in 2012. The end of the dry season in November began to open up about 60 per cent of the country which was cut off during the rains, enabling humanitarian actors to reach more people in need.