



# Return, Reintegration & Recovery (RRR)

## FACT SHEET

### RRR mandate

Security Council Resolution 1590 mandated UNMIS to “facilitate and co-ordinate, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons”. To perform this function effectively, UNMIS created the Return, Reintegration and Recovery (RRR) section, reporting to the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator.

### RRR role

In coordination with the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan, non-governmental organizations and UN agencies, RRR plans for the return and reintegration of internally displaced persons’ (IDPs) and refugees. It also supports the government in its own return/reintegration-related activities.

### RRR activities

RRR holds the lead for return and reintegration, which under the UN & Partners Work Plan comprises a national programme. This gives RRR the responsibility for inter-agency co-ordination efforts in collaboration with governmental partners. Under international humanitarian law, however, the government retains primary responsibility for the safe and dignified return of displaced persons.

The responsibilities of RRR fall within four broad categories:

- **Coordination:** RRR coordinates the return of IDPs, based on the Joint Plan for Organized Returns, which the Government of National Unity (GoNU), Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) and UN agencies agreed upon in October 2006, as well as other returns operations as appropriate.
- **Planning and monitoring:** RRR plans organized returns and monitors their conditions.
- **Information and advocacy:** RRR takes part in

the Sudan Information Campaign for Returns, led by UNICEF, which supports and ensures that IDPs receive relevant, accurate and timely information about places of return, and travels to return areas, so that they can make informed choices and decisions.

- **Capacity-building:** To guarantee that main stakeholders and their operational committees are familiarized with the best international practices, principles and operational standards to ensure better planning for organized returns and adherence to the principles of voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable returns and accepted international standards.

### Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

The estimated number of IDPs in Sudan in 2004 stood at four million (not including displacement related to the Darfur crisis). (Joint Assessment Mission, 2005)

There are four official Khartoum IDP camps -- Mayo, Jebel Awlia, Wad el Bashir and Omdurman el Salaam. In addition, there are squatter locations in and around Khartoum, as well as in other northern and southern states.

### Overview of returns

- Between November 2006 and early 2008, over half a million IDPs, mostly in Khartoum, registered their intention to return home.
- By the end of 2009, total returns had climbed to more than 2.3 million.
- Over 264,000 IDPs and refugees are estimated to have returned through organized returns (including over 92,000 IDPs and over 171,000 refugees).
- Total spontaneous returns of IDPs and refugees since the signing of the CPA are estimated at over 2 million.
- Reintegration assistance is provided to

returnees and receiving communities. In addition to an initial package, including food aid and domestic items for returnees, community-based assistance comprises seeds and agricultural tools. It also provides support for access to basic services, including water and sanitation, education, health and livelihood opportunities.

### **Achievements and future plans**

Since early October 2006, when the GoNU, GoSS and United Nations agreed to a Joint Plan for Organized Returns, collaboration among the three partners has been exemplary. Although resource commitments to the Joint Plan were not consistently fulfilled, the solid relationship allowed the effort to overcome many operational obstacles and ensure smooth return movements.

In addition, for more effective coordination and planning, the newly developed RRR database -- Return and Reintegration Information Management System (RRIMS) -- will assist with basic needs assessment and sectoral gap analysis, especially in areas of high return.

### **Challenges**

The main challenges during the Joint Plan for Organized Returns, especially during 2008, have been security incidents around the main corridors in Southern Kordofan, delaying and at times making movements impossible, limiting movements to one corridor only. Road conditions have also hindered returns, barring accessibility to certain destinations.

Spiraling inter-tribal conflicts during 2009 continued to be a major challenge to return and reintegration activities in most of Southern Sudan.

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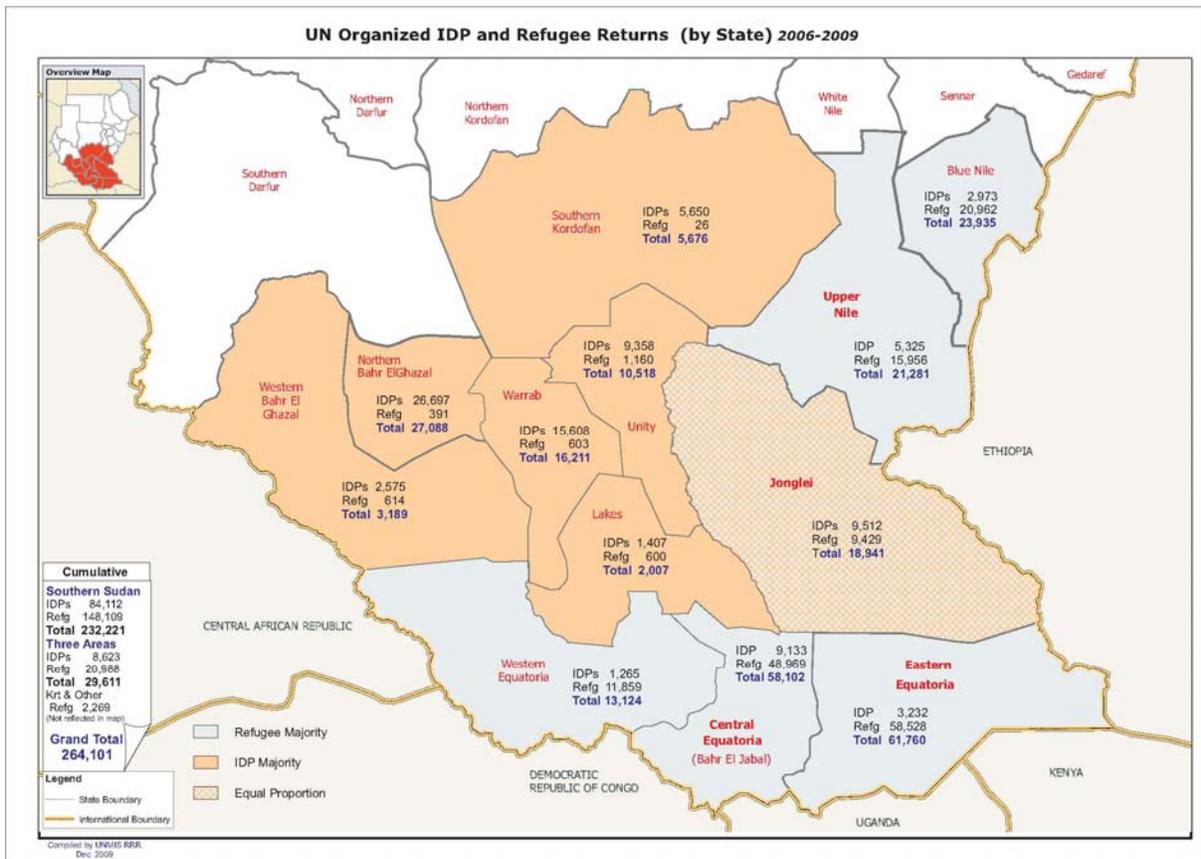
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Organized returns as of December 2009