



NEWS UPDATE

"Saving Lives and Building Resilient Communities"

THE RETURN

SITUATION | CHALLENGES | SOLUTION

(JULY 2024)

BY

THE DEPARTMENTS OF REPATRIATION OF IDPS AND
RETURNEES, MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION



ABOUT RRC NEWS UPDATE

This News Update is part of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) channels of communication used at different times by the Commission. The News Update is an important tool for promoting the work of RRC and its cooperation with other institutions and integration of activities. The magazine is primarily intended to serve as a platform for learning and sharing activities to our partners (UN agencies and donors) within South Sudan and beyond.

Through the News Update, the Commission endeavours to highlight humanitarian and development and peace context, maintaining and stimulating humanity, and to encompass a wide range of topics, covering humanitarian and social matters. It is targeted at a diverse community, exclusively defined by its interest in supporting the general services in South Sudan. The News Update seeks to reach out to friends of South Sudan, development partners to the South Sudanese populace in particular but also from around the world.

RRC News Update offer a unique information network dedicated to improving the performance of development and humanitarian actors through shared experiences and testimonials. Since its introduction as a publication of RRC, it has consistently highlighted the relationship between the community, development partnerships, humanitarian agencies and crisis-affected populations as critical to improving both service delivery and performance.

Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) will continue to inform and encourage people to support its engagement in giving to worthy causes at different levels. Our work is more than just a coordination agency. It is an effort that we and our partners have decided to undertake based on an altruistic desire to improve human welfare.

ABOUT RELIEF AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION (RRC)

RRC is an independent Commission and it was established by Article 148 of the Transitional Constitution and operationalized by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission Act 2016. RRC is a legal entity working in coordination with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Humanitarian agencies, NGOs and developmental Partners, The Commission has its Head Office in Juba with offices across all states, three Administrative Areas, and counties.

The Commission's functions include:

- Coordinating relief, repatriation, rehabilitation, resettlement, and reintegration of IDPs and returnees;
- Promoting awareness of voluntary humanitarian work;
- Registering and licensing NGOs;
- Training in disaster management;
- Mobilizing resources to address disasters and recovery;
- Establishing emergency supply storage facilities.
- Coordinating with government institutions and partners in disaster response and recovery.

VISION

A resilient South Sudan capable of saving lives and restoring the livelihoods of vulnerable people to live with dignity.

Mission

To facilitate and coordinate programs that save lives, restore livelihoods, and uphold the dignity of emergency-affected individuals and communities in South Sudan.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 15 April 2023, conflict erupted between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), led by Mohammed Dagalo (commonly known as Hemdeti), and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), led by General Burhan, who assumed power through a coup several months ago. This conflict has led to intense military clashes, with both sides launching offensives against each other. Sudan has been home to millions of South Sudanese who remained behind when South Sudan gained independence through a referendum in 2011. These South Sudanese, caught in the conflict, were forced to flee southward to their newly independent home country. Numerous South Sudanese are estimated to have lost their lives in the conflict, and hundreds of thousands of South Sudanese returnees and Sudanese refugees have fled to South Sudan.

The Government of South Sudan considers South Sudanese returnees as automatic citizens and has been striving to return these individuals to their states of origin or preferred areas. This repatriation effort is spearheaded by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) with support from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM) and other NGOs such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Meanwhile, Sudanese refugees have been accommodated in designated refugee camps such as Maban Refugee Camp (Upper Nile State), Athuonthok Refugee Camp (Ruweng Administrative Area), Gorom Refugee Camp (Central Equatoria State), and Wedweil Refugee Settlement (Northern Bahr El Ghazal State), all managed by UNHCR and the national government of South Sudan.



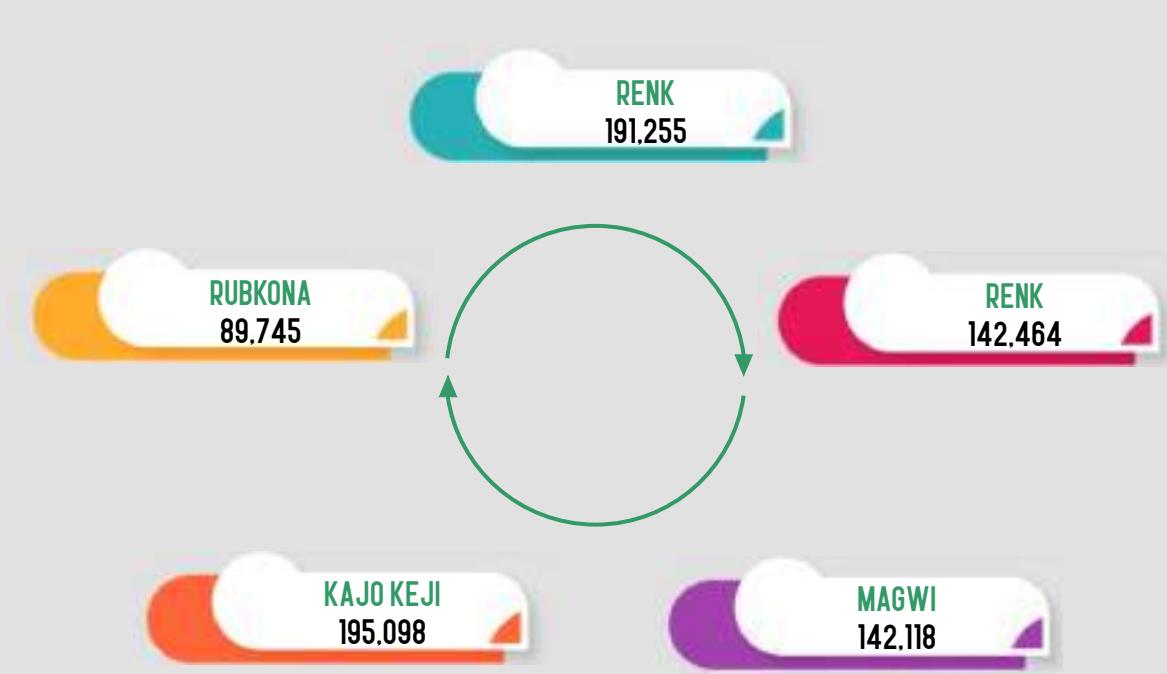
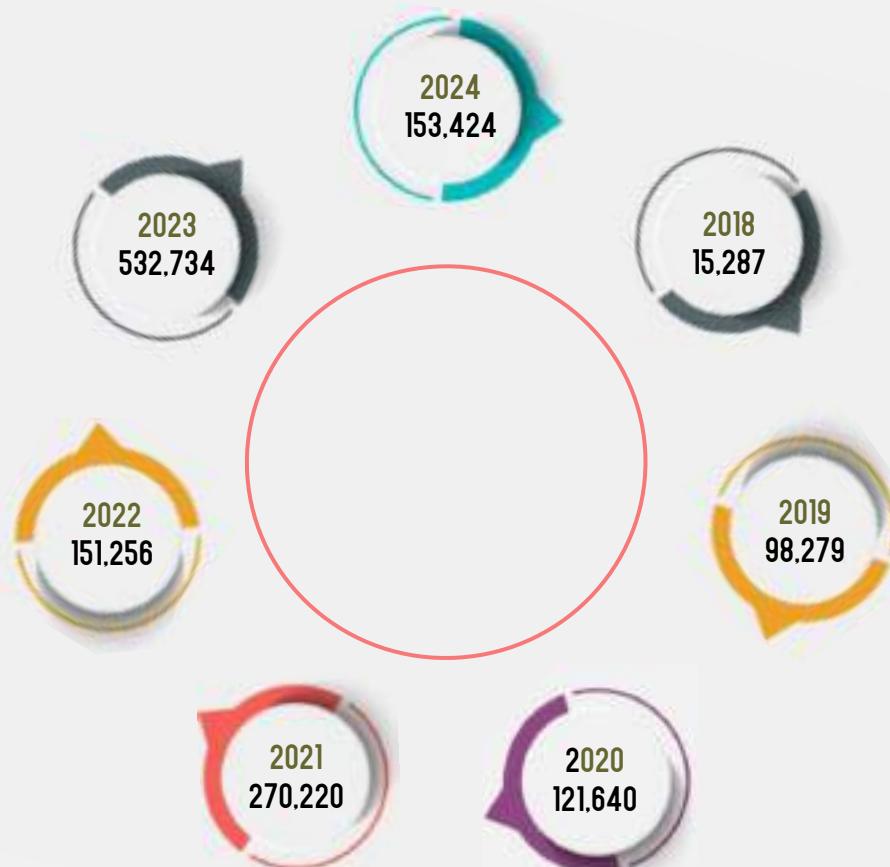
OVERVIEW OF SPONTANEOUS REFUGEE RETURNEES SINCE 2018 – 2024

RRC has 42 And 84 enumerators across the Country and below are the details of our data collections:

- This dashboard highlights the cross-border refugee movement of South Sudanese from the countries of Asylum such as – Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central Africa Republic;
- 41,660 individuals had been recorded and reported in the month of May 2024;
- The current accumulated number of South Sudanese Spontaneous Refugee Returnees recorded since October 2018 - April 2024 is 1,401,714 individuals.



TREND OF RETURNS SINCE 2018 – 2024 AND THE 5 CUMULATIVE COUNTIES OF RETURNS



COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	MAY 2024	2018 - 2024
SUDAN	26,417	74,308
UGANDA	1,636	379,748
ETHIOPIA	12,845	227,280
DRC	285	27,536
KENYA	321	15,965
CAR	156	7,890
TOTAL	41,660	1,401,272



RETURN PER STATES FOR THE MONTH AS OF MAY 2024. MOST RETURNEES WERE FROM SUDAN

THIS DATA ON RETURNEES WAS COLLECTED, VALIDATED THROUGH
UNHCR – IOM, RRC JOINT MONITORING:

STATE	NO. OF RETURN, MAY 2024	ACCUMULATIVE NO. 2018 -2024
UPPER NILE	25,801	559,8441
CENTRAL EQUATORIA	3,662	328,209
WESTERN EQUATORIA	2,689	16,536
NORTHERN BAHR EL GHAZEL	2,475	53,493
UNITY	1,136	155,099
JONGLEI	498	65,023
WARRAP	383	18,540
EASTERN EQUATORIA	316	123,641
WESTERN EQUATORIA	238	16,538
LAKES	350	350
OTHERS	4,461	4,461

PUSH FACTORS, PULL FACTORS AND OTHER PROTECTION CONCERNS

Push Factors

- Insecurity in the Country of Asylum (21%);
- Lack of employment, Livelihood And other Economics Opportunities (17%);
- Reduction of Food Ratio in The Refugee Camps (10%);

Pull Factors

- To reunite with the families (13%);
- Improved Security in South Sudan (9%);
- To access Land, Properties and Housing (10%);

Protection Concerns

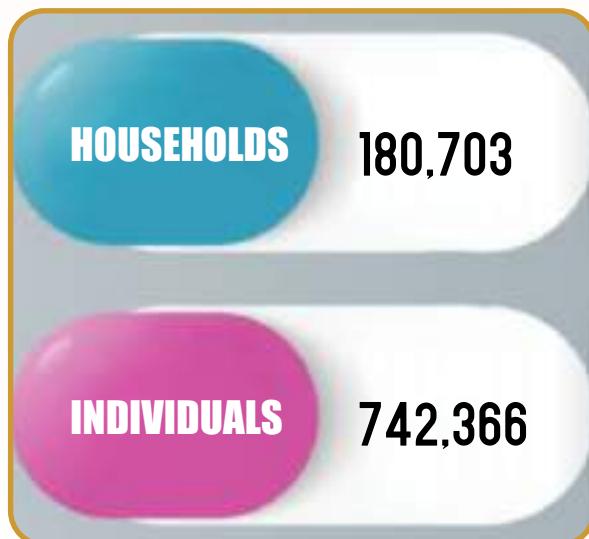
- Lost of belongings of South Sudanese, Exploitation and Extortion (13%);
- No Freedom of Movement, Arrest or Detention (11%);
- Confiscation of personal identification even Refugee and Ratio Cards (5%)



INFORMATION ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN SUDAN

In this context, South Sudan had received new arrivals from Sudan through the points of entry along these States since 16/04/2023 – 16/07/2024.

KEY FIGURES



OTHER NATIONALITIES 18

STATE	H/HS	INDIVIDUALS	MALES	FEMALES
AAA	4,836	19,998	10,147	9,851
NBG	18,133	46,128	26,071	20,057
UNITY	8,178	29,330	14,392	14,938
UPPER NILE	145,608	632,097	304,984	327,113
WBG	3,951	14,813	7,284	7,529
TOTAL	180,703	742,366	362,878	379,488



SEX AND AGE BREAKDOWN

RETURNES WERE CATEGORIZED INTO SEX AND AGES

MALE	FEMALE	YEARS
68,914	69,478	0 - 5 YEARS
118,385	119,498	6 - 17 YEARS
165,550	179,119	18 - 59 YEARS
10,029	11,393	60 YEARS
362,878	379,488	

ONWARD MOVEMENT

- No. of people tracked 748,434 individuals;
- No. of people moved to areas of return in South Sudan 311,285 individuals;
- Returnees stranded at border entry points 433,478 individuals.

FINAL DESTINATIONS

STATE	INDIVIDUALS	REMARKS
AAA	13,606	1 COUNTY & OTHER LOCATIONS
CE	70,105	6 COUNTIES
EE	521	8 COUNTIES
JONGLEI	10,775	11 COUNTIES
LAKES	579	7 COUNTIES
NBG	47,039	5 COUNTIES
OTHERS	26	OTHER LOCATIONS
UNITY ``	59,181	10 COUNTIES
UNKNOWN	1,103	OTHER LOCATIONS
UPPER NILE	65,972`	12 COUNTIES
WARRAP	18,726	
WBG	23,366	3 COUNTIES
WE	286	6 COUNTIES
WARRAP	18,276	7 COUNTIES
TOTAL	311,285	748,434
NO. OF RETURNNEES STRANDED	437,149	

METHODOLOGY USED

The dashboard is jointly developed by UNHCR – IOM and endorsed by RRC. UNHCR and IOM collect data at various points of entry where different people and groups are arriving to South Sudan.

ONWARD TRANSPORTATION TO BALIET AND PIGI COUNTIES

This brief report details the efforts of the Government of South Sudan through RRC in response to the needs of community of Baliet and Pigi who requested the leadership of RRC to transport them to original counties.

The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), has undertaken significant repatriation efforts for South Sudanese returnees and accommodated in Malut since 2013 in designated camps. Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) has been pivotal in transporting displaced persons from Melut County to Pigi and Baliet Counties, successfully repatriating thousands of individuals and households.



Additionally, the Abyei Administrative Area has served as a key entry point for returnees and refugees. The report highlights ongoing efforts, challenges faced, and the continuous commitment to ensuring the well-being and resettlement of those affected by the conflict.

REPATRIATION UPDATE FROM MELUT-26TH JUNE TO 11TH JULY 2024

IDPs from Pigi (Jonglei State) and Baliet (Upper Nile State) in Melut County, Upper Nile State, have been successfully repatriated. The repatriation was carried out using boats from 26 June to 29 June 2024. Below are the details:

Repatriation of IDPs from Pigi County:

- **Total Individuals: 625**
- **Total Households: 128**

Repatriation of IDPs from Baliet County:

- Total Individuals: 187
- Total Households: 55

Below is a detailed report on the total number of IDPs, households, and individuals repatriated by the RRC in collaboration with the Araial Company for Trading Ltd, covering both Pigi County and Baliet County:

12 June 2024

- 17 trucks carrying 2,000 households (10,000 individuals) departed Melut County for Baliet County and arrived safely in Malakal Town.

28 June 2024

- One boat carrying 400 households (2,000 individuals) departed Melut County for Baliet County and arrived safely in Malakal Town.

29 June 2024

- Three boats carrying 1,240 households (6,200 individuals) departed Melut County for Pigi County, Jonglei State, and arrived safely in Khorfulus.

4 July 2024

- One boat carrying 210 households (1,051 individuals) departed Melut County for Pigi County, Jonglei State, and arrived safely in Khorfulus.

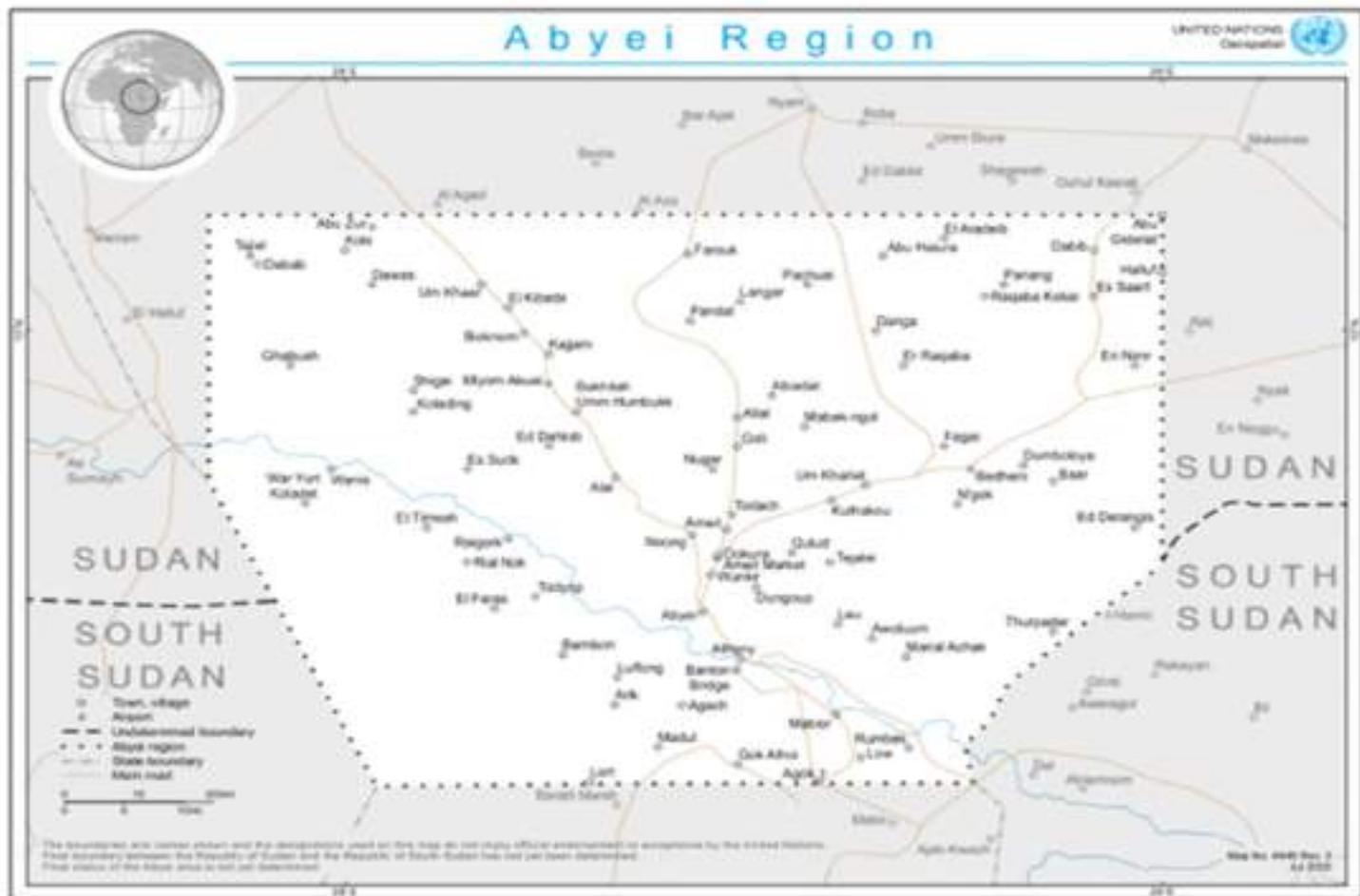
10 July 2024:

- Two boats carrying 600 households (3,000 individuals) departed Melut County for Pigi County, Jonglei State, and arrived safely in Khorfulus.

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AND INDIVIDUALS REPATRIATED (12 JUNE - 10 JULY 2024)

- Households: 4,450
- Individuals: 22,251

UPDATE FROM ABYEI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA



The Abyei Administrative Area, situated along the border between Sudan and South Sudan, has been significantly affected by the ongoing civil war in Sudan. Abyei serves as an entry point for South Sudanese returnees and Sudanese refugees fleeing to South Sudan through the Amiet Market. Over thirty thousand returnees returned to South Sudan through Abyei entry point and over three thousand refugees have been received and transported to the Wedweil Refugee Settlement in Northern Bahr El Ghazal State (NBeGS). A reception center, supported by UNHCR, is operational in Abyei, where refugees are gathered and transported to designated camps. Additionally, some returnees and refugees use the Amiet Market as a waystation.

Most South Sudanese who were in Western Kordofan have been transported directly from Amiet to Warrap State and Aweil East County in NBeGS in coordination with the RRC of Warrap State. Approximately eight hundred returnees were moved during this period. Currently, during the dry season, the Misseriya nomads are present in the Abyei Area, leading to occasional incidents of armed robbery. The Misseriya area has fallen under RSF control, resulting in refugees being trapped in the northern part of Abyei.

On 20 June 2024, the RSF overran Fulla Town, the capital of Western Kordofan State, located approximately 260 kilometers from Abyei and outside the Abyei box. This development has dislodged the Deputy Governor of Western Kordofan (SPLA-N-Malik Agar), Adam Karshom, who

is now in Abyei Town. Reports indicate numerous atrocities are occurring, with many South Sudanese still in the area. More returnees and refugees are expected to arrive. The situation will be closely monitored, and further updates will be provided as necessary.



CONCLUSION

The Government of South Sudan, in collaboration with various international organizations, remains committed to the safe repatriation of South Sudanese returnees and the accommodation of Sudanese refugees. Continuous efforts are being made to ensure the well-being and resettlement of those affected by the conflict. The situation remains fluid, and all relevant agencies, coordinated by RRC, are on high alert to respond to emerging challenges promptly. Further updates will be provided as the situation develops.

SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE AT A GLANCE

NEW ARRIVALS

As of 14 July 2024, since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, over 743,799 individuals have arrived in South Sudan, fleeing the ongoing conflict in Sudan. Of these, 78 per cent (577,566) are South Sudanese returnees, 21 per cent (160,840) are Sudanese refugees, and less than 1 per cent are asylum-seekers and third-country nationals.

82 per cent of all arrivals to South Sudan (607,110) entered the country via the Joda-Wunthou border crossing point, close to the town of Renk in the Upper Nile State. Others arrived through entry points in Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal States, Ruweng, and Abyei.

South Sudan receives an average of 1,440 new arrivals daily in 2024, compared to 1,800 arrivals in 2023.

Since the start of the Sudan crisis, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers registered in South Sudan has increased by over 160,000 or 50% - from nearly 300,000 at the beginning of 2023 to 474,295 as of the end of June 2024.

RRC, IOM and UNHCR carry out joint border monitoring and publish data regularly.

RESPONSE STRATEGY

Phase 1: Life-Saving Humanitarian Assistance at border/in transit and onward transportation:

Access to territory, reception, and registration at the border. Identification and case management of the extremely vulnerable. Life-saving humanitarian assistance at points of entry and points of transit and support for onward transportation to desired destination

UNHCR coordinates the response in Renk + runs Transit Centres + relocation of refugees

IOM is in charge of onward transportation of returnees.

Phase 2: Life-Saving Humanitarian Assistance upon arrival to final destination of choice
Integration in ongoing life-saving humanitarian assistance in areas of destination based upon needs.



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