In 2012 alone, IOM registered 155,000 returnees reaching their final destinations. Aiming to establish conditions that allow for dignified and humane returns, IOM provided multi-sectoral support including emergency shelter (ES), water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), healthcare and non-food items (NFIs) at returnee transit sites and settlements. In addition, nearly 28,000 vulnerable returnees received onward transport assistance to their final destinations. Access to water was improved at 61 locations, benefitting 55,000 people, in areas of high return.

Continued fighting in Sudan’s Blue Nile State has resulted in the presence of over 110,000 Sudanese refugees in camps in Upper Nile State. IOM provides WASH support in Doro Camp, the largest camp in Upper Nile State hosting over 44,000 refugees. More refugees are expected to arrive in South Sudan by early 2013.

Floods displaced over 260,000 people across the country. IOM, as the lead of the Shelter and NFI Cluster, supported over 20,000 flood-affected individuals with essential household supplies and shelter materials.

Cross-border and internal conflicts caused the displacement of over 170,000 people in 2012. IOM and the Shelter and NFI Cluster reached over 40,000 conflict-affected households with NFI and shelter support.

The displaced population from the Abyei Area began to return home following improvements in security conditions. IOM established population movement tracking systems to closely monitor the returns, and provided NFI and shelter support to the Abyei returnees.

Throughout 2012, IOM led the Shelter and NFI Cluster, co-led the Emergency Return Sector, co-chaired the Reintegration Theme Group, and continued to be a major provider of cargo transport services for humanitarian agencies through the operation of its Common Transport Service.

To facilitate peace-building and conflict mitigation in conflict-prone communities, IOM provided vocational training for ex-combatants and vulnerable youths, and is rehabilitating key community infrastructures aiming to mitigate tensions over scarce resources and to facilitate mutual understanding between different socio-economic and ethnic groups.

IOM strengthened the capacity of South Sudan’s border management, by refurbishing/equipping four border posts including Juba International Airport, and training over 260 immigration officials.

2012 Highlights

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1. Returns to South Sudan

By the end of 2012, over 1.8 million South Sudanese have returned to their homeland since 2007. In 2012 alone, IOM recorded 155,000 returnees reaching their final destinations. Return operations organized by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) have been put on hold, while the closure of return routes from Sudan, insecurity in border areas, and inaccessibility to remote locations has left thousands of South Sudanese stranded at various locations in both countries.

Returns from Kosti / Juba transit site

The closure of the river corridor between the two countries left many returnees stranded, most notably at Kosti in Sudan. An ultimatum was issued by the Sudanese authority ordering the removal of returnees from Kosti by early May, where at least 12,000 South Sudanese were awaiting onward transportation assistance. In response to the situation, an emergency humanitarian airlift was organized between 14 May and 6 June. IOM Sudan arranged 83 flights from Khartoum, relocating 12,225 returnees to Juba. At the same time, IOM South Sudan, in partnership with GRSS, UNHCR and 28 other humanitarian actors, established a transit site on the outskirts of Juba. With the joint efforts of partners, shelter, food, NFI, WASH and healthcare services were provided. IOM’s involvement in this operation included overall coordination, site preparation, transport from the airport to the site, shelter/NFI coordination and distribution, WASH services, population registration and verification, and onward transport assistance for those who did not have the means to reach their final destination on their own. In addition, the IOM-managed Rapid Response Fund (RRF) financed three implementing partners to provide health and WASH services. While the majority of returnees left the site by the end of June and most partners withdrew, some 1,800 people still remained, requiring continued support until a relocation solution was found. As a result of advocacy efforts by IOM and partners for land allocation for those remaining, a piece of land was allocated in Kuda, Terekeka County, Central Equatoria State. The relocation of a total of 1,849 individuals from the transit site to Kuda was completed in early December.

Renk

Throughout the year, Renk, a border town in Upper Nile State, continued to host a large population of returnees, as it became the major entry point from the north. A recent IOM verification exercise conducted in November 2012 has recorded over 20,000 returnees stranded in the four returnee sites in Renk, showing a 14% increase since the last verification in April (see graph). IOM’s support in Renk includes semi-static clinics established at three locations, WASH, monitoring of new arrivals and departures, the provision of basic NFI to vulnerable stranded returnees, and onward transport by barge, boat, or by road. In 2012, over 10,000 returnees departed from Renk through IOM-organized transport, the majority by barge. All barge passengers were provided with food rations, soap, water purification sachets, and were medically screened for fitness to travel. The IOM health team also provided essential treatment and made referrals to hospitals as needed. In addition, hygiene and protection monitors were trained to ensure that the risk of illness due to poor sanitation is minimized during the return journey on barges. The humanitarian funding mechanism that supports national and international NGOs in implementing emergency response interventions for people affected by natural and man-made disasters across South Sudan.

Note 1: IOM, in collaboration with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), monitors return movements of spontaneous and government organized returnees.

Note 2: With the financial support of the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), IOM operates the Rapid Response Fund (RRF), a humanitarian assistance funded mechanism that supports national and international NGOs in implementing emergency response interventions for people affected by natural and man-made disasters across South Sudan.
an community estimates that an additional 125,000 people will return to South Sudan during 2013, and the returnee population in Renk is increasing as the arrival of dry season has improved access by road from Sudan. IOM will continue to provide its support for the vulnerable stranded returnees in Renk.

Heglig emergency

Emergency return operations in 2012 included the assistance to a government-organized convoy of over 1,300 returnees from Khartoum, who were originally heading to destination in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region (which includes the states of Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal) but were rerouted to Renk, as fighting in Heglig erupted. IOM and humanitarian partners established a transit site in Malakal on land allocated by the local authorities, where the caseload was provided with access to water, food, shelter, sanitation, and healthcare, until they were assisted to fly to their respective destinations. The airlift began in May and was completed in June. At the Malakal transit site, IOM installed a surface water treatment unit which treated river water trucked to the site, constructed 42 communal latrines, and deployed a health team providing consultations and essential treatment, immunization for children under five, and pre-departure health screening. The site was closed on 6 July, due to health concerns and access restrictions as the result of flooding. At that time 439 returnees were remaining at the site to guard their luggage. They were relocated to the nearby UNHCR-managed Way Station until IOM-chartered river transport was organized.

Organized returns by train and air

IOM also assisted organized returns from Sudan to South Sudan by train and air. In March, a train departed Khartoum carrying 1,400 South Sudanese returnees to Wau, via Aweil Town. Most of the 1,400 passengers on the train had been living in open areas across Khartoum for more than a year, waiting for transportation assistance to South Sudan. En route, the train picked up additional passengers and 2,000 returnees were estimated to have arrived at Aweil or Wau railway stations. IOM and partners provided access to water, sanitation, and medical assistance. Vulnerable returnees with no means to reach their final destination were assisted with onward transport.

For extremely vulnerable individuals who were not fit to travel by road or train, IOM organized air movements. The beneficiaries included elderly and disabled people, pregnant women and people with serious medical conditions.

Support to communities affected by high returns

The continued arrivals of returnees have deteriorated the already limited access to basic services in communities that host a large number of returnees. In order to increase access to these basic services, IOM provided WASH and health support in areas affected by high returns. In 2012, a total of 61 water sources were newly established or rehabilitated and 365 latrines were dug in 12 counties in five states. In addition, a Primary Health Care Unit was rehabilitated in Manyiel, Aweil East County in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State and its health providers were trained.

2. Refugee response in Upper Nile

On going fighting in Blue Nile State since October 2011 has driven some 110,000 Sudanese refugees to cross the border into Maban County, Upper Nile State. The UN expects an influx of an additional 20,000 refugees by early 2013. In partnership with UNHCR, IOM is coordinating WASH response in Doro, the largest camp, with a population of 44,700 (Dec 2012).

Refugee response

Since IOM started WASH support in Doro Camp at the end of 2011, the availability of safe water in the camp has significantly improved. In early 2012, IOM trucked drinking water to areas where water sources were scarce. As of December 2012, four boreholes have

### Onward transport assistance increased in 2012

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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Source: IOM South Sudan 2012

Note 3: The number of people moved (a total of 40,567) is larger than the number of beneficiaries (a total of 27,743) as many returnees moved more than once to reach their final destinations.
been drilled, nine have been equipped with motorized pumps, and a total of 23 boreholes are being maintained by IOM. Through these efforts, safe water supply in Doro Camp has increased, from 4 litres per person per day in February to 21 litres in December. IOM plans a further improvement in water accessibility within the camp, as refugee numbers in the camp continue to rise, by drilling more boreholes and by expanding the distribution systems to cover a wider area.

Access to sanitation has also improved in Doro Camp. IOM has constructed over 2,900 latrines and 1,100 bathing units within the camp by the end of 2012. The ratio of refugee per latrine currently stands at 15. IOM has also recruited and trained 128 hygiene promoters who carry out daily household visits and organize community gatherings, in order to promote good hygiene practices. In addition, water management committees and latrine caretakers have been appointed to ensure the maintenance and effective use of the facilities.

IOM recently completed a “Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices” (KAP) survey which will establish a baseline of knowledge and understanding of good hygiene practices. These results will guide future hygiene promotion campaigns and interventions in Doro Camp. The results will be available in early 2013.

The influx of refugees from Blue Nile State is expected to continue in 2013, while camps in Maban County are near full capacity. Efforts are therefore underway to identify new sites. IOM is committed to extend its WASH support, at the request of UNHCR. IOM is also prepared to support the transport of newly arrived refugees to camp locations, as well as to facilitate the relocation of refugees from one site to another.
Host community support

IOM is also working to improve access to safe drinking water for host communities affected by flooding, food shortages and the arrival of refugees, aiming at minimizing tensions between the refugee and host communities. In Bunj Town, next to Doro Camp, IOM has repaired two hand pumps and installed two solar stands allowing for motorized pumping at a major water collection point for the town’s residents. In December 2012, IOM began drilling two new boreholes in areas accommodating both host community members and recently-arrived returnees. IOM plans to rehabilitate an additional 24 boreholes for the host communities in Maban County.

Moreover, with the support of RRF, four oral rehydration posts were established, ten boreholes will be rehabilitated and hygiene promotion activities are on-going for host communities, implemented by the American Refugee Committee (ARC).

In addition to WASH support, IOM continued to operate the Common Transport Service (CTS). Over 3,200 Metric Tons (MTs) of emergency supplies were transported to Upper Nile State in 2012, supporting 37 humanitarian agencies.

IOM has been the Shelter and NFI Cluster lead since 2011, coordinating Shelter and NFI responses at national, state and field levels in South Sudan. IOM manages the NFI and emergency shelter core pipelines. As the cluster lead and pipeline manager, IOM led the planning and prepositioning of NFI and emergency shelter materials in strategic locations during the dry season in 2012, and effectively coordinated the timely delivery of supplies to over 80,000 households in need across South Sudan. IOM’s rapid response team was deployed across the country to fill response gaps and provide

Returnee/Displacement tracking and monitoring

Since 2007, IOM, in collaboration with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), has been implementing the Tracking and Monitoring (T&M) Programme. The programme has three core functions. First, it monitors the movements of spontaneous and government-organized returnees to their areas of return in South Sudan, second, it verifies the population at returnee transit sites, and third, it registers populations that have been displaced within South Sudan due to man-made and/or natural disasters. The tracking of returnees is done in areas of return as well as en-route, through enumerators that are trained and deployed at transit hubs along principle returnee routes. The findings of these tracking and monitoring activities are widely circulated among partners, informing humanitarian and development policy making and programming.

The population data gathered by the programme includes numbers disaggregated by sex and age, special needs/vulnerabilities of the individuals, and the areas of departure and final destination. The programme covers 68 out of South Sudan’s 79 counties across its ten states, and Abyei.

In 2012 the programme has also completed a village assessment survey targeting 6,331 villages in 30 counties across eight states of South Sudan. The 30 counties selected for the survey were those which are receiving the highest number of returnees. The survey will be able to map the basic resettlement and reintegration needs in those villages and provide a baseline for the planning, coordination and monitoring of upcoming return, reintegration and recovery interventions.

3. Internal displacement

In 2012 humanitarian actors recorded nearly 300 conflict-related incidents with humanitarian consequences, and over 170,000 newly displaced in 2012. IOM responded to these crises by leading/participating in assessments to verify the number of displaced, and by leading the Shelter and NFI Cluster response.
support to partners in the field when required.

Conflicts in Jonglei

As one of, if not the, most volatile states in South Sudan, conflict in Jonglei State in 2012 led to the displacement of 114,000 individuals, according to UN estimates.

In 2012, the joint efforts of the cluster have led to the distribution of NFI and shelter materials to over 19,200 conflict-affected households in the state.

Cross-border hostilities

Between March and May 2012, border clashes between South Sudan and Sudan displaced some 20,000 residents from border areas. Bentiu Town was one of the targets of the bombardment. IOM airlifted three tons of emergency medical supplies to Bentiu Hospital. In addition, a local partner supported by the RRF, provided emergency healthcare services in Pariang County, north of Bentiu.

Returns to Abyei

In May 2011, fighting in Abyei resulted in the displacement of 110,000 people into neighboring areas of South Sudan. Since June 2012, IOM has been monitoring voluntary return movements to Abyei, by establishing four tracking hubs and deploying 23 enumerators, covering more than 70 villages around Abyei Town. The most recent IOM verification exercise in November 2012 recorded nearly 17,000 returns to Abyei. The majority of those verified intended to stay in Abyei should conditions remain safe and stable.

IOM South Sudan and Shelter and NFI Cluster partners provided assistance to communities displaced in Agok Town. In December 2011, IOM established an office in Turalei, Warrap State, 65 kilometers south of Abyei town from where it provided logistical support when required. IOM also established a semi-static clinic at the camp for the Abyei displaced in Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal State.

In 2013, IOM plans to support the rehabilitation of key public infrastructures in the Abyei area, which had been damaged or destroyed, in order to improve access to essential services for people who have returned to Abyei.

Lord Resistance Army

Communities in Western Equatorial State have been displaced due to military attacks by the Lord Resistance Army (LRA). In order to...
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improve access to essential healthcare among the affected population, IOM provided health services by operating three mobile clinics covering 10 locations in the counties of Tambura, Ezo, Nzara and Yambio until September 2012.

Floods response

The flooding in 2012, which was much worse than in previous years, affected some 260,000 individuals in South Sudan. The worst flooding was concentrated in Jonglei State, with Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Warrap and Upper Nile States also badly affected.

The Shelter and NFI Cluster, in coordination with the Logistics Cluster, delivered essential NFIs in the affected areas. By December, IOM and the Cluster partners had reached 6,875 households in Jonglei alone. Despite the inaccessibility of several locations, this rapid response was made possible through strategic prepositioning earlier in the year. In 2012, the cluster reached over 20,000 flood-affected households across nine states with shelter and NFI support.

4. Peace-building, stabilization and reintegration

The influx of returnees has been putting pressure on impoverished local economies across South Sudan, increasing competition over scarce resources, and worsening the living conditions of vulnerable people. The lack of economic opportunities increases levels of frustration and can potentially serve as a push factor for youths to join armed forces or engage in crimes. IOM aims to facilitate the consolidation of peace and stability by improving access to essential social services, boosting economic opportunities, and promoting dialogues and mutual understanding between different interest groups.

Counties of high return

At the request of the Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan, IOM has taken the lead in formulating, through consultations with government departments and partners, an inter-agency returnee reintegration strategy. In early 2012, an extensive reintegration strategy was developed by the Reintegration Theme Group for South Sudan (RTGSS), which IOM co-chairs with the RRC. The strategy targets 19 counties with a large returnee population, and covers seven states in the country (see graph). The overall goal of the strategy is to reinforce stability and to enhance food security and social inclusion in areas of high return. IOM has recently secured funds to support two counties (Aweil East in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Twic in Warrap State), and seeks additional funds in order to provide much needed assistance in the remaining 17 counties in 2013.

IOM’s on-going approach takes the dynamics of cultural and social diversities within the target communities into account. The active participation of community members, including both men and women that are returnees and host community members, consists of the key implementation strategy of IOM’s stabilization and reintegration efforts, which fosters the sense of ownership and enhances the sustainability of the results of projects. Project benefits are to be shared among different interest groups, and hence create a positive impact on their co-existence in the target areas. IOM partners consist of experienced community-based organizations that are able to execute projects in various parts of the country efficiently. The following illustrates the projects that were completed in 2012 and those that are on-going.

Vocational training

In support of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) initiative, IOM provided over 5,000 ex-combatants with vocational training and livelihood start-up materials in areas where a high number of ex-combatants were located. The DDR project was executed in partnership with UNDP and the DDR Commission, and was completed in May 2012.

Source: Reintegration Theme Group 2012 / Map produced by IOM South Sudan

IOM supported over 5,300 ex-combatants and vulnerable youths to acquire livelihood skills through vocational training.
Similarly, in partnership with ILO and with support from the UN Peace Building Fund, IOM has trained over 300 vulnerable youths in three states. The project offered training in masonry, carpentry, electrics, welding, auto mechanics and tailoring. Successful graduates were provided with business start-up kits, allowing them to capitalize on the acquired skills immediately upon the completion of the training.

**Community infrastructure development**

IOM has identified the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region as a priority area for its stabilization and reintegration efforts. The region, which has the country’s highest levels of poverty, is affected by the highest rates of return, and is prone to intra/inter-border conflicts.

One of IOM’s projects in this region, the Peace-Building and Stabilization Initiative, supported by the Government of the Netherlands, will have provided four boreholes, a vocational training center and three large water reservoirs (hafirs) in target communities in Western Bahr el Ghazal State by early 2013. The water reservoirs will provide water for farming and livestock throughout the year, allowing the inhabitants to cope during the dry season and reducing tensions between communities over scarce water resources. The project will have generated over 1,500 short-term jobs and the infrastructures will benefit an estimated population of 4,000.

The Peace and Stability Quick Impact Fund (PSQIF), supported by the European Union’s Instrument for Stability, funds community-based initiatives that seek to mitigate conflict through the promotion of trade and commerce, media and awareness, small community infrastructure development, and dialogue. To date, a total of 16 projects run by national NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) are supported by the fund.

5. Immigration and border management

IOM has developed a strong partnership with South Sudan’s Department of Nationality, Passports and Immigration (DNPI), in order to assist the country’s fledgling institutions with the introduction of improved migration management practices and related policies. The approach, supported by the Governments of Japan, Canada and the United Kingdom, seeks to develop comprehensive immigration policy frameworks respectful of international standards, while enhancing human-resource capacity and improving systems and infrastructure.

To this end, IOM has so far equipped three land border points with Kenya and Uganda, as well as Juba International Airport (JIA) with data management equipment (PIRS - Personal Identification and Registration System) and travel document examination equipment. Since it went live at JIA on 4 July 2012, PIRS has gathered the details of almost 49,000 passengers which can be used for a variety of purposes, including the development of a national Warnings’ List giving immigration authorities a robust tool to protect its borders and enhance security.

Eighteen training sessions have been delivered to immigration authorities in a wide range of areas including human trafficking, detection of forged documents, basic information technology (IT) skills, PIRS operation, investigative skills and overall migration management and policy principles. Over 260 DNPI personnel have been trained to date.

As a result of the installation of forgery detection equipment and associated training, 25 forged documents have been detected at the above mentioned three land border posts and one impostor was identified at JIA.
For further information contact the IOM South Sudan Program Support Unit on ssudanpsu@iom.int