

Forced Displacement Survey
SOUTH SUDAN 2023

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Abbreviations

DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FDS	Forced Displacement Survey
GBV	Gender-based violence
HFIAS	Household Food Insecurity Access Scale
HHS	Household Hunger Scale
ITN	Insecticide-treated net
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OOP	Out-of-pocket
ProGres	Profile Global Registration System
RCSI	Reduced Coping Strategies Index
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WASH	Water, sanitation, and hygiene

Cover Photo: Amira Khalifa Husein carries water that was collected near her home.

54 per cent of refugees in South Sudan have access to basic drinking water.

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Acknowledgements

The ***Forced Displacement Survey (FDS) – South Sudan 2023*** has been delivered by dedicated teams from UNHCR’s Global Data Service, in close collaboration with the UNHCR country office in South Sudan, and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. The National Bureau of Statistics, South Sudan and UNHCR’s Regional Bureau of East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes were also integral to the survey’s implementation.

Data collection was conducted by FORCIER Consulting under the supervision of UNHCR between April and December 2023. The Global Survey Team at UNHCR Headquarters led the technical decisions and all activities before, during, and after data collection, including enumerator training. The UNHCR country office provided logistical support to the Global Survey Team and information needed to design the methodology.

The FDS and this report would not have been possible without financial and technical support from UNHCR’s Division of Resilience and Solutions, the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, and the Government of Denmark.

Finally, the partnership between UNHCR and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the support from the National Bureau of Statistics were fundamental to the successful implementation of the FDS in South Sudan.



Manahil Hamid is 15 years old, the average age of a refugee in South Sudan. She is in a classroom in a school in the Maban refugee camp in the north of South Sudan. Classes can have up to 300 students enrolled and up to 160 attending in a single day. Only one out of three girls like Manahil finish their education. Many students, particularly teenage girls, drop out of education during secondary school. Only four per cent of female refugees have completed upper secondary school.
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Foreword

South Sudan has hosted refugees since its independence in 2011, despite facing multiple social challenges and internal conflicts. Most of these refugees come from Sudan, where people have been forced to flee due to protracted conflicts that escalated dramatically in April 2023. South Sudan also hosts refugees who have fled Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and more, amounting to over 450,000 refugees in the country by April 2024.

At the same time, millions of South Sudanese live below the poverty line and the crisis in Sudan is taking a heavy toll on South Sudan's economy. In such a context, integrating refugees is particularly challenging and linking humanitarian assistance to stabilization and development programmes is an imperative. This is all the more urgent as humanitarian funding is increasingly overstretched, which requires all actors to rethink the way we provide assistance to the South Sudanese and refugee populations.

The Forced Displacement Survey (FDS) provides the data needed to contribute to plan such impactful development programmes. It collects data on the socioeconomic and living conditions of refugees and host communities, providing actionable evidence to inform the operational and policy-related data needs of the government, as well as its humanitarian and development partners. Through partnership between the FDS and the National Bureau of Statistics, the Government of South Sudan has built a solid foundation for delivering on their National Statistical Inclusion pledge in support of the Global Compact on Refugees.

High-quality data is central to UNHCR's efforts to safeguard the rights and well-being of forcibly displaced populations and to work on long-term solutions for people affected by forced displacement. We hope that this report will contribute to the efforts of the Government of South Sudan to engage with development and humanitarian partners towards providing sustainable programmes that will better the lives of South Sudanese communities and refugees.

Marie-Helene Verney

UNHCR Representative

South Sudan

1

Key figures

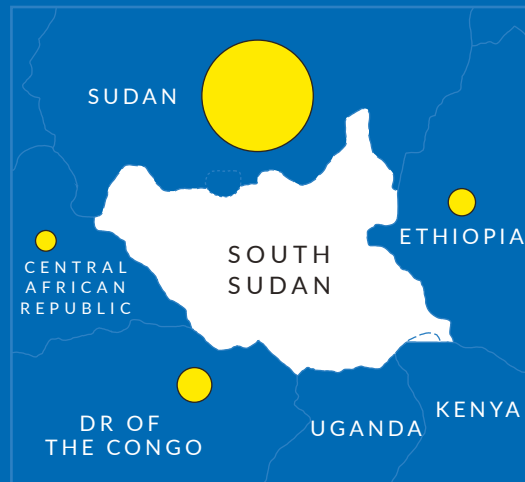


Nationality

Over four-fifths



of adult refugees in South Sudan are Sudanese. Most refugees live in the North of the country. Many have been there 11 years on average.

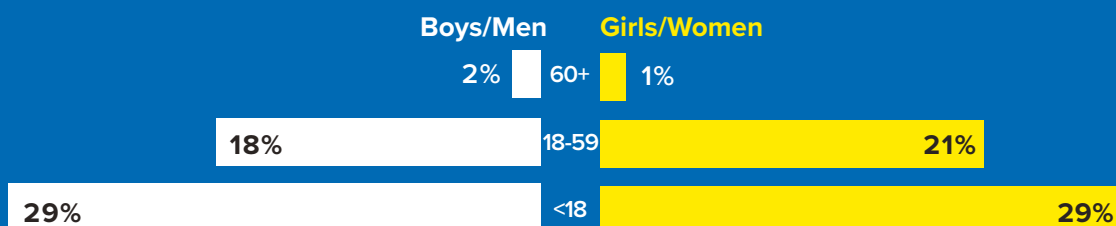


Demographics

58% of refugees are under 18, while just 3 per cent are over 60.



54% of adult refugees are women.





Basic needs

54% of refugees can reach an improved drinking water source in under half an hour.



95% of refugees who needed health care were able to access it.

43% of refugees have an improved toilet that they do not share with other households.



< 1% of refugees have access to clean fuels for cooking, and around two-thirds use torches for lighting.



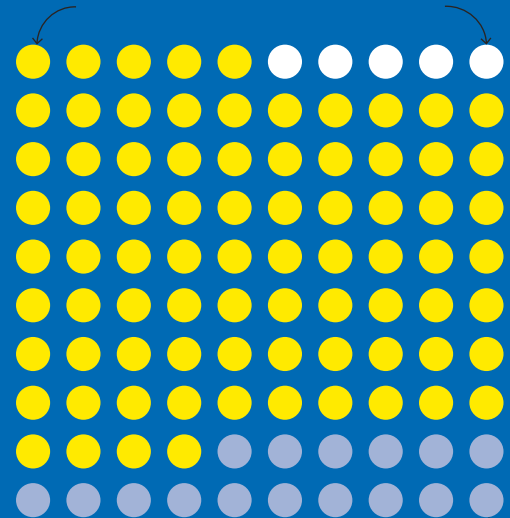
Over two-thirds

of households have poor levels of food consumption.



Access to free health care

No access to health care



Access to health care with fees



Livelihoods

Approximately

70% of refugees in the North of the country experienced flooding in the previous 12 months. Around 80% of these have no way of coping with shocks.



65% of adult refugees are outside the labour force, typically working in subsistence agriculture or in the household.

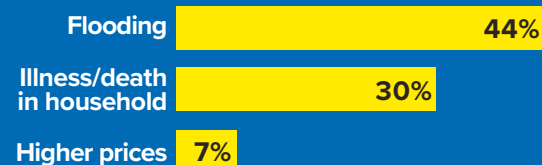


41% of refugee households experienced shocks in the previous 12 months. Among those households the most commonly experienced shocks were **flooding, illness among family members and higher food prices.**




Over two-fifths

of refugee households saw their household incomes fall relative to the previous year.



2

Introduction

A photograph of a classroom in a school. A teacher is standing on the left, silhouetted against a bright window, writing on a large chalkboard. The teacher is wearing a patterned shirt. In the background, several students are seated at wooden desks, looking towards the teacher. The room has a corrugated metal roof and stone walls. The lighting is warm, coming from the window.

Balila Primary School, in the north of South Sudan, has students from the refugee and host community. Classes can have up to 300 students enrolled and up to 160 attending in a single day. According to the Forced Displacement Survey conducted in 2023, only 41 per cent of refugees under 34 in Maban have completed their primary education. Across the country, many students, particularly young women, drop out of education during secondary school. Only four per cent of female refugees have completed upper secondary school, compared to 14 per cent of males.
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The Forced Displacement Survey – South Sudan 2023 is the first of its kind. The survey aims to develop a better understanding of the lives of those forced to flee by presenting a broad overview of the legal and socioeconomic situation of refugee and host community populations in South Sudan, delivering insights to improve programming and policies.

The Forced Displacement Survey

The Forced Displacement Survey (FDS) is UNHCR's new flagship household survey programme designed to standardize, streamline, and build on the existing UNHCR survey landscape to produce high-quality and timely data on people forced to flee. The FDS is comparable across countries over time and aligned with international statistical standards. The FDS bridges the gap between humanitarian and development spaces and provides crucial evidence in support of the durable solutions agenda.

The FDS aims to cover refugees and asylum-seekers hosted in lower- and lower-middle-income countries. Its primary target populations are refugees, asylum-seekers, and host communities (nationals who live in proximity to refugees/asylum-seekers).

The FDS uses a nationally representative sample of registered refugees/asylum-seekers to produce country-level evidence. Selected sample sizes and sample allocations also allow the production of results for certain subgroups of target populations and to respond to countries' information needs and priorities.

As a multi-topic survey, the FDS collects household- and individual-level data on the socioeconomic characteristics and living conditions of the target populations.

Data is collected through face-to-face household interviews. In each household, interviews are conducted with up to four household members aged 15 and above: (1) the head of the household or a household member who is knowledgeable about the household; (2) a randomly selected household member who provides information about individual life experiences; (3) the caregiver of a randomly selected child under five years of age; and (4) a randomly selected woman who gave birth in the last two years.

The FDS strictly adheres to Open Data Access principles, and both the statistical findings and the microdata produced are publicly available. They can be used to inform operations, programmes, and research by governments, donors, humanitarians, and development institutions, as well as forcibly displaced persons themselves. The data also provides evidence on progress towards global commitments (e.g., Global Compact on Refugees, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Grand Bargain).

Country context

South Sudan is a socially and environmentally diverse country. The equatorial regions in the South are greener and more suited to agriculture, and prior to conflict the region was referred to as the “breadbasket of South Sudan.” Populations in the South are mobile, and livelihood opportunities are more diverse than in the North. The northern region of South Sudan is drier, closer to the Sahel landscape. Populations in the North are more isolated, and mobility is limited given the lack of infrastructure. Moreover, in the last few years, Unity State experienced severe flooding, which seriously affected the capacity of local populations to use agriculture as a livelihood source or to cover their basic food needs. The northern regions, where refugees are located, also experience sporadic inter-communal violence, which is a source of instability.

HISTORY OF REFUGEE ARRIVALS

Over the years, South Sudan has experienced a significant increase in its refugee population due to a combination of factors, including persistent conflict, climate change, and regional instability. Since gaining independence in 2011, the country has been plagued by civil wars and localized violence, leading many South Sudanese to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. Concurrently, South Sudan has also become a destination for refugees fleeing instability in the region. Those are predominantly from Sudan, as well as the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ethiopia.

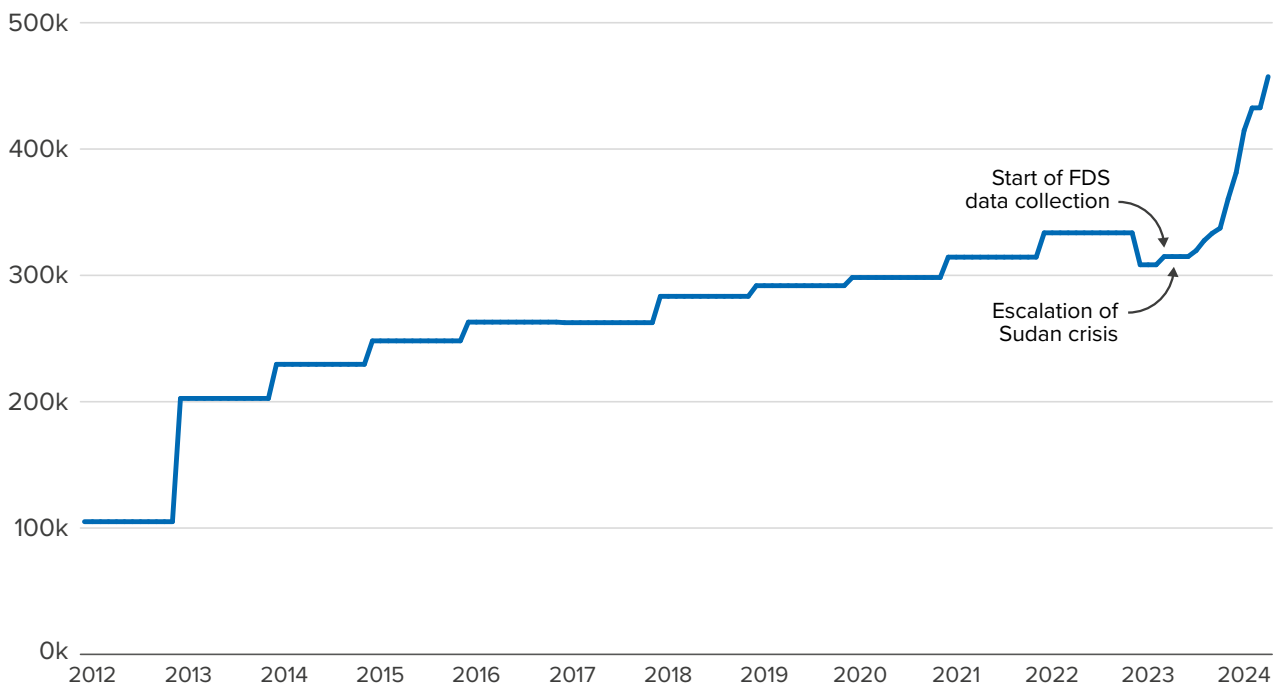
Large numbers of Sudanese refugees have fled conflict in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states since 2011. The refugee population in South Sudan has increased over the last decade and on 31 March 2023, the period preceding the start of the FDS data collection, South Sudan was host to 298,362 refugees, of which 278,820 were from Sudan, 11,556 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 4,406 from Ethiopia, 2,344 from the Central African Republic, and more.



Manahil (15) and Isa (13) Hamid walk to school in the Maban refugee camp in the north of South Sudan. According to the Forced Displacement Survey conducted in 2023, only 41 per cent of refugees under 34 have in Maban have completed their primary education. Across the country, many students, particularly young women, drop out of education during secondary school. Only four per cent of female refugees have completed upper secondary school, compared to 14 per cent of males.

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FIGURE 1 NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN SOUTH SUDAN



Data for 2011 to 2022 is annual and more frequent for 2023 to April 2024. The values may differ from other refugee population figures, as statistics on the registered refugee population are regularly adjusted following verification exercises. Data source is UNHCR's Profile Global Registration System (proGres).

Another major contributing factor to the increase in the refugee population are recurring and severe climatic events, particularly flooding, which have destroyed crops and exacerbated food insecurity and economic hardships. These events, compounded by a fragile economic situation, have driven significant displacement within the region, with many affected individuals seeking refuge in South Sudan.

Many refugees hosted in South Sudan face long and protracted displacement. Access to durable solutions, which can be achieved through local integration, return home, or resettlement, is challenging. In fact, hosting a significant refugee population is difficult for South Sudan, as the country is experiencing a humanitarian crisis due to several interconnected factors: the legacy of decades of civil war, subnational inter-communal

violence, economic under-development, flooding, climate change, and most recently, conflict in neighbouring Sudan. Poor infrastructure and lack of educational opportunities result in very few opportunities for self-reliance, particularly in rural areas. Those forced to flee to South Sudan often face extremely vulnerable circumstances and arrive in areas with limited capacity to adequately host them. Consequently, many face humanitarian challenges, including serious protection concerns, insufficient infrastructures, and lack of basic services. The most prominent challenge they face is food insecurity. Other challenges include continuous and persistent flooding as well as access to seeds, finance for livestock, purchasing and maintenance, and access to agricultural land, all of which make subsistence farming extremely difficult.

Sudan Crisis 2023–2024



The current crisis in Sudan, which escalated dramatically from its start in April 2023, has driven large numbers of refugees into South Sudan. Between April 2023 and April 2024, more than 134,000 new refugees arrived in South Sudan. Upper Nile State and Doro camp have seen the highest number of arrivals, with 23,043 new refugees. Ajuong Thok and Pamir in Ruweng Administrative Area are also major sites, with Pamir recently receiving 5,102 new arrivals.

This influx, along with refugees from other neighbouring countries like Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), has significantly increased the refugee population. By December 2023, South Sudan hosted over 386,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, growing to more than 457,000 by the end of April 2024.

Efforts to manage this growing refugee population have included increased operational presence and resource allocation by humanitarian organizations. The South Sudanese government, with the support of international partners, has also adopted policies to address the needs of refugees and host communities.

Despite these efforts, significant challenges remain. The strain on services in refugee camps and settlements has led to heightened levels of gender-based violence, child protection issues, and limited access to education and psychosocial support. Additionally, many refugees live in overcrowded and under-resourced conditions, which further complicates their ability to achieve self-reliance and stability.

REFUGEE LOCATIONS

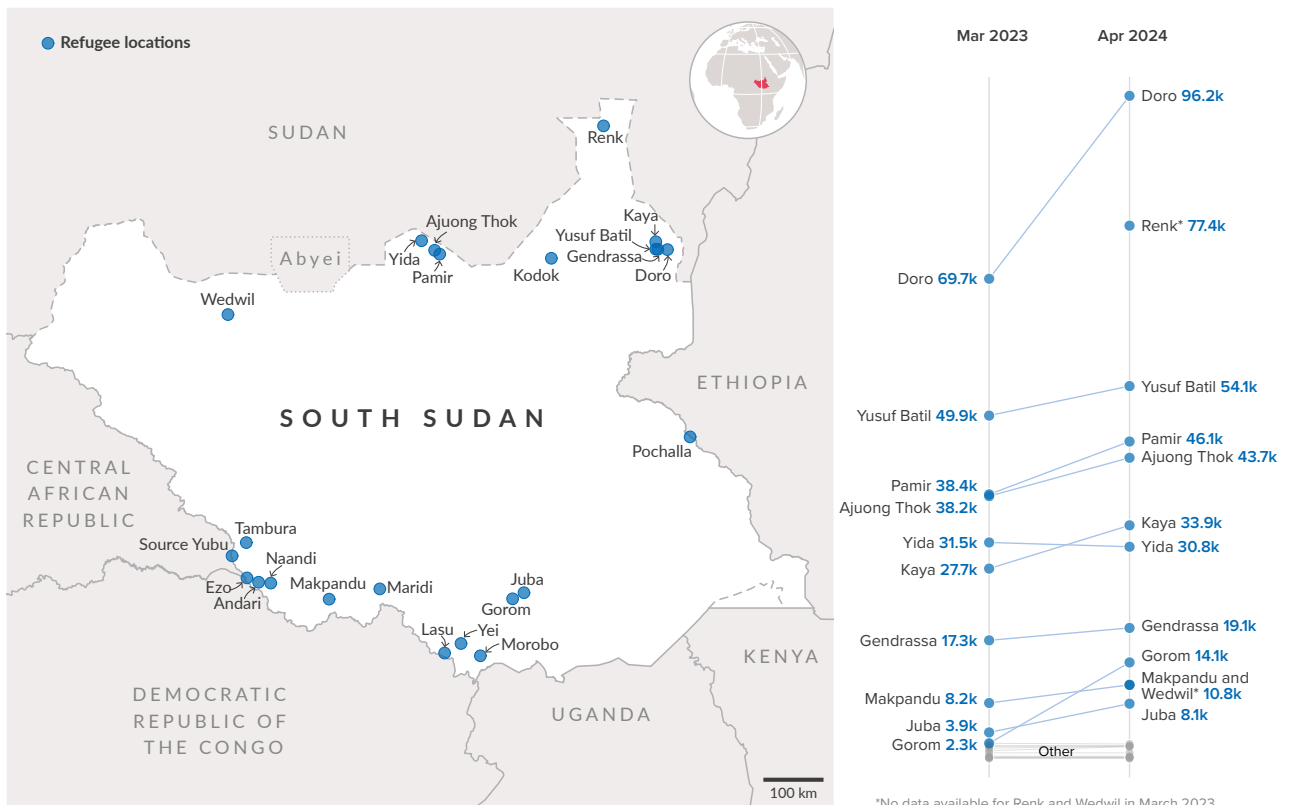
Traditionally, refugee-hosting operations have relied on camp settings to provide protection services, humanitarian aid, and basic services such as education and health care to refugees. This approach is undergoing a strategic shift toward a more integrated approach, which implies the transitioning from camps to integrated settlements. The purpose of such a shift is to promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities, support the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees, and ensure that host communities that are facing humanitarian needs can also benefit from the available services.

When FDS data collection began, the majority of refugees in South Sudan were concentrated in the northern regions, specifically in Upper Nile State and Ruweng Administrative Area, accounting

for 92 per cent (274,455) of the total refugee population, according to UNHCR population statistics in March 2023. In Upper Nile State, most refugees were in Maban county (56 per cent), which has four camps: Batil, Doro, Gendrassa, and Kaya. Ruweng Administrative Area hosted a substantial number of refugees in Ajuong Thok and Pamir camps (36 per cent), along with one settlement.

Aside from the northern regions, there are notable refugee settlements in the equatorial regions, including Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria. These areas are near the borders with the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Additionally, the capital city, Juba, and nearby Gorom settlement host refugee populations.

FIGURE 2 REFUGEE POPULATION BY LOCATION, MARCH 2023 AND APRIL 2024



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of the Congo has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. Data source is UNHCR's Profile Global Registration System (proGres).

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Government of South Sudan has adopted a progressive “open door” policy towards refugees, providing a strong legal framework for their protection and inclusion. The 2012 South Sudan Refugee Act and the 2017 Refugee Eligibility Regulations are key legal instruments that ensure refugee rights. South Sudan is also a signatory to major international and regional conventions, including the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention (acceded in 2016), the 1951

Refugee Convention, and its 1967 Protocol (acceded in 2018). These frameworks collectively guarantee that refugees in South Sudan are entitled to various rights, such as obtaining identity documents (refugee registration cards jointly issued by national authorities and UNHCR), travel documents for free movement within the country, access to employment, and the same basic health services and primary education as South Sudanese nationals.

TARGET POPULATION AND SAMPLE SIZE

The main target population of the FDS is the refugee population¹ in South Sudan, as of March 2023, before the Sudanese crisis, which started in April 2023. Data on the national population or “host community”² was also collected. The Forced Displacement Survey – South Sudan 2023 does

not cover urban refugees or asylum-seekers in Juba due to operational and situational constraints. Combined, these two populations constitute less than two per cent of the refugee and asylum-seeker population in South Sudan. Results are systematically disaggregated in three main groups:

Refugees North

Refugees in camps and settlements in Pariang county, Ruweng Administrative Area, and refugees living in Maban county, Upper Nile (two strata)

Large majority of refugees in South Sudan live in the refugee camps in the North. The frame for this population is the Google Open Building database.³ Building objects were sampled with an area sampling approach using stratified systematic random sampling of buildings.⁴

- 1 The refugee population is comprised of all individuals who registered with UNHCR or the Government of South Sudan and filed an application for asylum and includes those whose status is successfully determined and are recognized as refugees, and those who have not undergone a status determination process and are still asylum-seekers. It also includes prima facie refugees, hence those who do not have to go through an individual status determination process and are by default given refugee status in virtue of their nationality and period of arrival.
- 2 Defined as the national population living in proximity of the refugee population, interacting, and sharing space, resources, and opportunities with the refugee population.
- 3 Google Open Buildings version 2 - database of geocoded building data acquired through processing of high-resolution aerial photography - <https://sites.research.google/open-buildings/>.
- 4 Buildings located within the official boundaries of the camps were considered to belong to a refugee household's frame, and those outside the borders of the camp and within the borders of Pariang and Maban counties were considered to belong to the host community households' frame. Measures were taken to offset potential bias of building-based sampling on the account of a household owning more than one building. The number of buildings owned was recorded during the interview, and sampling probabilities were adjusted with weighting procedures.

Refugees South

Refugees located in Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, and Jonglei (one strata)

Refugees in the South represent only eight per cent of all refugees in South Sudan. The frame for this population is UNHCR's Profile Global Registration System (proGres) database (extracted on 3 March 2023), or the list of the heads of the registration cases.⁵ Refugees in southern counties live in dispersed settlements with a lower level of management and have often relocated to neighbouring communities. Therefore, this sample was selected using stratified systematic random selection, where the settlements were used as the stratification criterium, yielding a sample that was proportionally distributed across the areas where refugees resided.

Host Community North

Hosts in Pariang county, Ruweng Administrative Area, and hosts living in Maban county, Upper Nile (two strata)

Only the host communities in the North were surveyed, as technical, logistical, and budget limitations excluded refugees in the South from the final sample. The Google Open Building database served as the frame for this sample. Host samples were selected by systematic random sampling using probabilities proportional to the proximity of the respective buildings to the closest camp boundary.

A replacement protocol and sample were used to address the nonresponse or ineligibility of sampled households. The replacement sample was drawn together with the main sample and selection into a replacement sample was randomized and strictly controlled.

The FDS collects information on households⁶ and randomly selected members aged 15 years and older, children under the age of five, and women who gave birth in the two years prior to the survey. 3,100 households, of which 2,100 were refugee households and 1,000 households from the host community were targeted based on expected credibility of results.⁷

Results are estimated using adjusted sample weights to correctly represent the underlying population. Composite analytical weights were estimated, adjusting for unequal probability of selection of sampled units as well as structurally adjusting the geographic distribution of the sample to resemble the population.

The main unit of observation for the FDS is the household. Here, a **refugee household** is one where members usually live together, share meals, and either the head of the household or the spouse is a recognized refugee. In addition to information at the household level, the FDS also collects information on individual members

5 A case is composed of individuals who registered together at the same time and are related to each other.

6 A refugee household is defined as one where members usually live together, share meals, and either the head of the household or the spouse is a recognized refugee.

7 Credibility of results is understood as a precision of statistical estimates. A target of 5 per cent margin of error at the 95 per cent confidence interval is assumed.

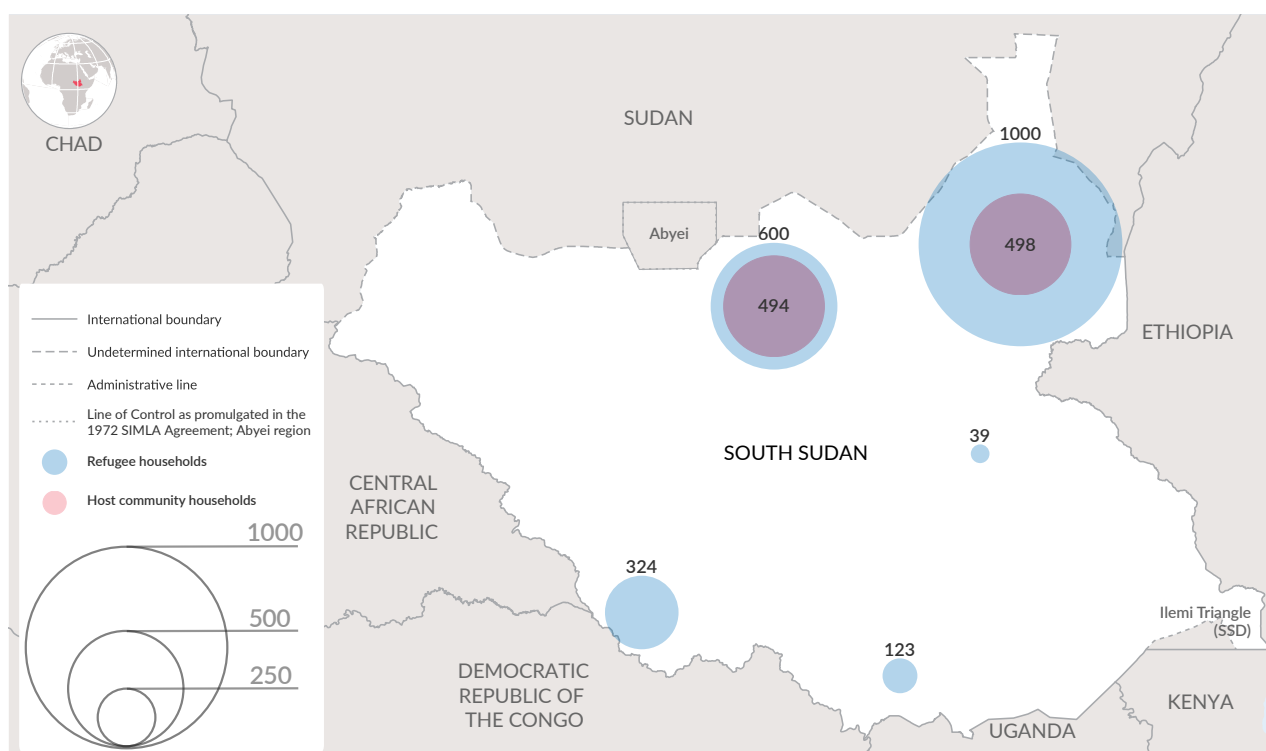
of the household aged 15 years and older, children under the age of five, and women who gave birth in the two years prior to the survey. All individuals within the household are selected randomly and therefore represent respective underlying populations.

The target sample size was determined to be 3,100 households, of which 2,100 were refugee households and 1,000 were households from the host community. 500 refugee returnee households in Magwi county were also interviewed but are

not featured in this report. Target sample sizes were determined based on expected credibility of results.⁸

The final realized sample of the FDS in South Sudan is composed of 3,078 households, all located in rural areas. Among them, 2,086 (68 per cent) are refugee households and 992 (32 per cent) belong to host communities living in proximity to refugees in the north. Both refugee and host households consented to participate in the survey. The response rate⁹ was 97 per cent and the refusal rate was 0.4 per cent.

FIGURE 3 FDS SOUTH SUDAN—FINAL REALIZED SAMPLE



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.


The statistical results presented in this report are estimated using adjusted sample weights to correctly represent the underlying population. For this purpose, composite analytical weights were estimated adjusting for unequal probability of selection of sampled units as well as structurally adjusting the geographic distribution of the sample to resemble the population.

⁸ Credibility of results is understood as a precision of statistical estimates. A target of 5 per cent margin of error at the 95 per cent confidence interval is assumed.

⁹ Estimated using RR4 and REF2 calculations based on AAPOR Standard Definitions (2023): <https://aapor.org/standards-and-ethics/standard-definitions/>.

3

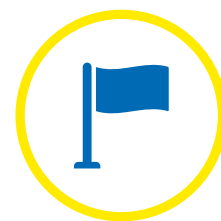
Legal status and displacement history

A photograph of a woman, Amira Khalifa Husein, standing in the center of a makeshift shelter made of sticks and branches. She is wearing an orange headscarf and a patterned orange dress, and she is holding a large white ID card. In front of her, six children are seated on a wooden bench. The children are dressed in simple, colorful clothing. The background shows more of the shelter and some trees under a cloudy sky.

Amira Khalifa Husein holds her ID that lists her six daughters (seated) and her two sons (not pictured). Her eldest daughter, Muna, who is aged 18, holds her ID which most refugees over 15 possess.

© UNHCR/Melany Markham

Nationality

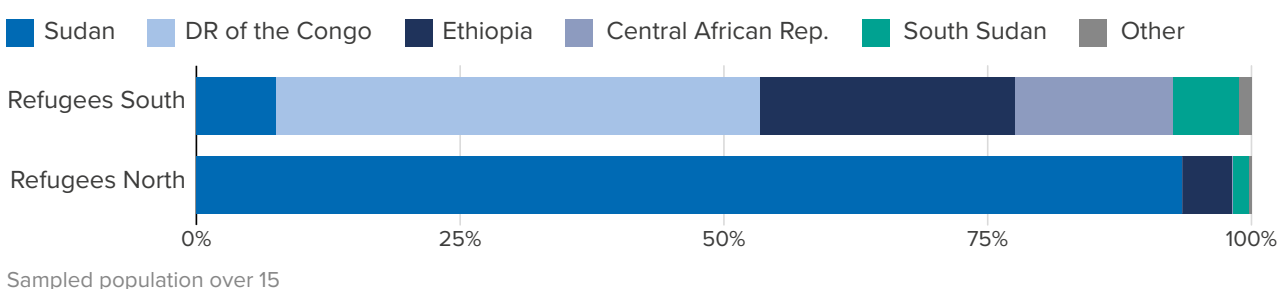


Almost the entire registered refugee population over 15 years old in the North of South Sudan is Sudanese (over 99 per cent).¹⁰

In the South, the largest group of refugees are citizens of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (47 per cent), followed by Ethiopia (26 per cent) and then Sudan (9 per cent). Most registered refugees over 15 in the North were born in Sudan

(93 per cent), followed by Ethiopia (5 per cent). In the South, most refugees over 15 were born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (46 per cent), Ethiopia (24 per cent), and South Sudan (6 per cent).¹¹

FIGURE 4 COUNTRY OF BIRTH



Identity documents



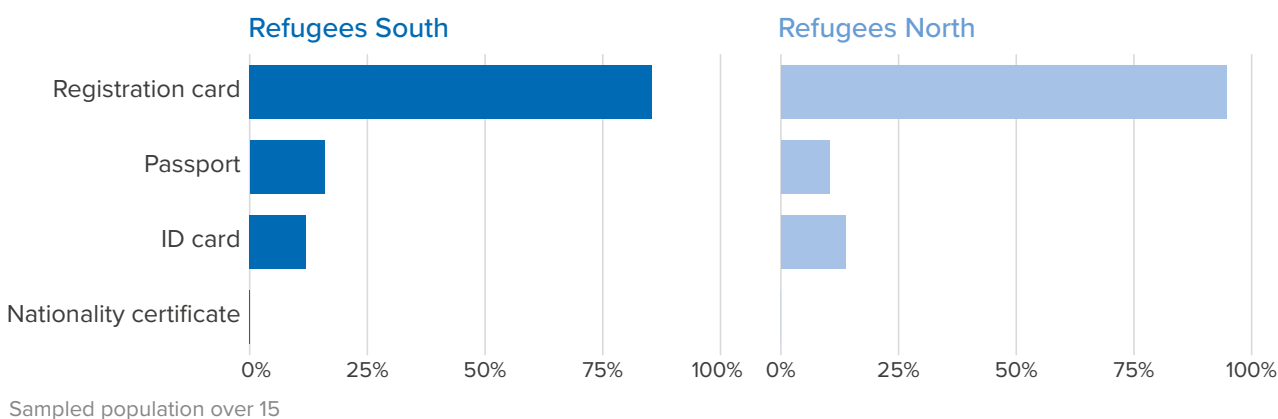
The majority of registered refugees aged 15 and older have at least one identity document. In the North, 95 per cent of refugees have a refugee identity card, while in the South the share is slightly lower, at 85 per cent.

¹⁰ See Introduction for an overview of which regions are classified as North and South.

¹¹ As South Sudan gained independence in 2011, no person over 15 can have been born in the country. These individuals were probably born in Sudan in territory that is now South Sudan.

Other identification documents are less common, with fewer than one in five refugees over 15 owning a passport (11 per cent in both the North and South) or government-issued IDs (14 per cent in the North and 12 per cent in the South).

FIGURE 5 IDENTITY DOCUMENTS



Birth notification or registration



Among registered refugees in the North, 96 per cent of children under five received a birth notification. The share is similar in the South at 89 per cent.

Birth notifications and vaccination cards are issued by health facilities and UNHCR and, pending the rollout of birth registration and government-issued birth certificates, are the only available document for many refugees to prove their child’s identity. Birth notification or registration documents are less common among the host community in the North, at 57 per cent of children under five.

FIGURE 6 BIRTH NOTIFICATION/REGISTRATION



Randomly selected children aged nine months to five years in sampled households

Displacement history



In the North, the median number of years that refugees have lived in South Sudan is 11. In the South it is even higher, at 13.

The FDS does not include refugees who were displaced during the recent conflict in Sudan, which began in April 2023. At the start of data collection, many of the refugees who were forced to flee to South Sudan have been in the country for a long time, highlighting the protracted refugee situation.

FIGURE 7 YEARS SPENT IN SOUTH SUDAN



Sampled refugees who have not always lived in South Sudan

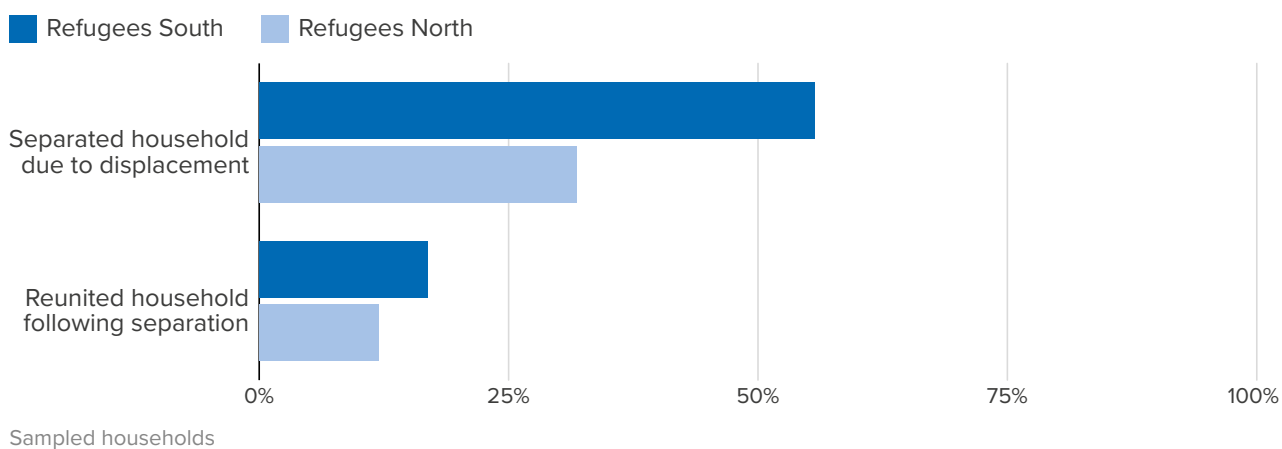
Separated households



More than half of refugee households in the South were separated at the time of displacement (56 per cent), meaning that at least one member of the household stayed behind in the country of origin while others fled.

In the North the share is around one-third (32 per cent), although there is a large difference in separation rates of households in Maban and Pariang (18 and 53 per cent, respectively). Of those households that were initially separated, less than one in three in the South reunited. In the North, the share is only slightly higher.

FIGURE 8 SEPARATED HOUSEHOLDS



“For now, here, it is safe,” says Amira Khalifa Husien. She fled war in Sudan in 2011. After she first arrived, she considered returning, but now she has eight children to care for. Around 70 per cent of refugees from Sudan either don’t plan to return or say it will depend on the situation in Sudan.

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Intention to return

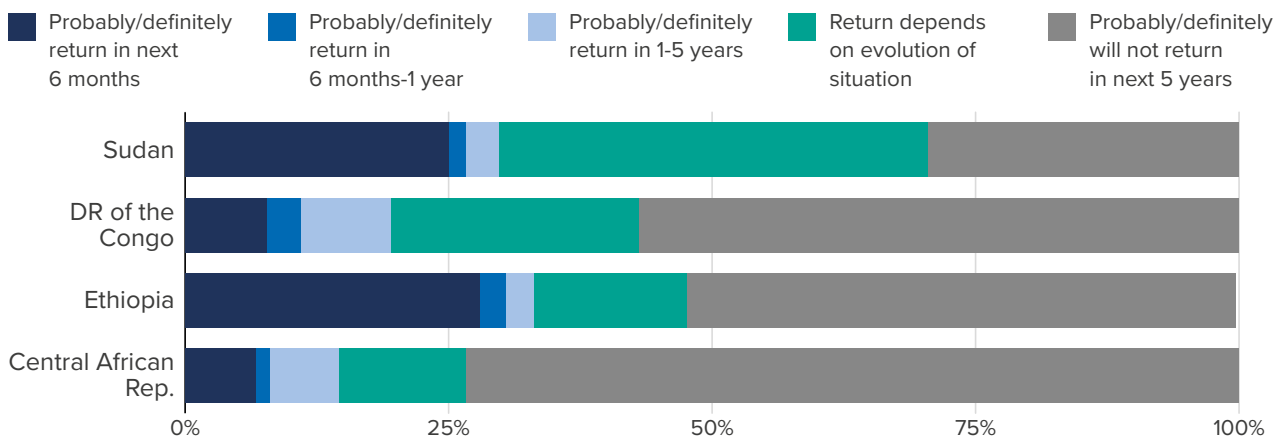


The eruption of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, during the first month of data collection, is likely to have changed many Sudanese households' intentions to return.

However, at the time of the survey, 27 per cent of refugee households from Sudan, mainly residing in the North of South Sudan, considered a return likely or certain in the next year, while 41 per cent reported that they will decide whether to return based on how the situation in Sudan develops.

In the second-largest group of refugees, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a smaller share of household heads think a return in the next year is likely (11 per cent). The majority do not plan to return at any point in the next five years (57 per cent).

FIGURE 9 INTENTION TO RETURN TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



Sampled households. Some countries omitted due to small sample size.

4

Demographics



Only ten days old, this infant was born to Amira's daughter, Muna (18) in Maban, in the north of South Sudan. 40 per cent of refugees in the north, where this child was born, are married by the time they are 18 according to the Forced Displacement Survey.

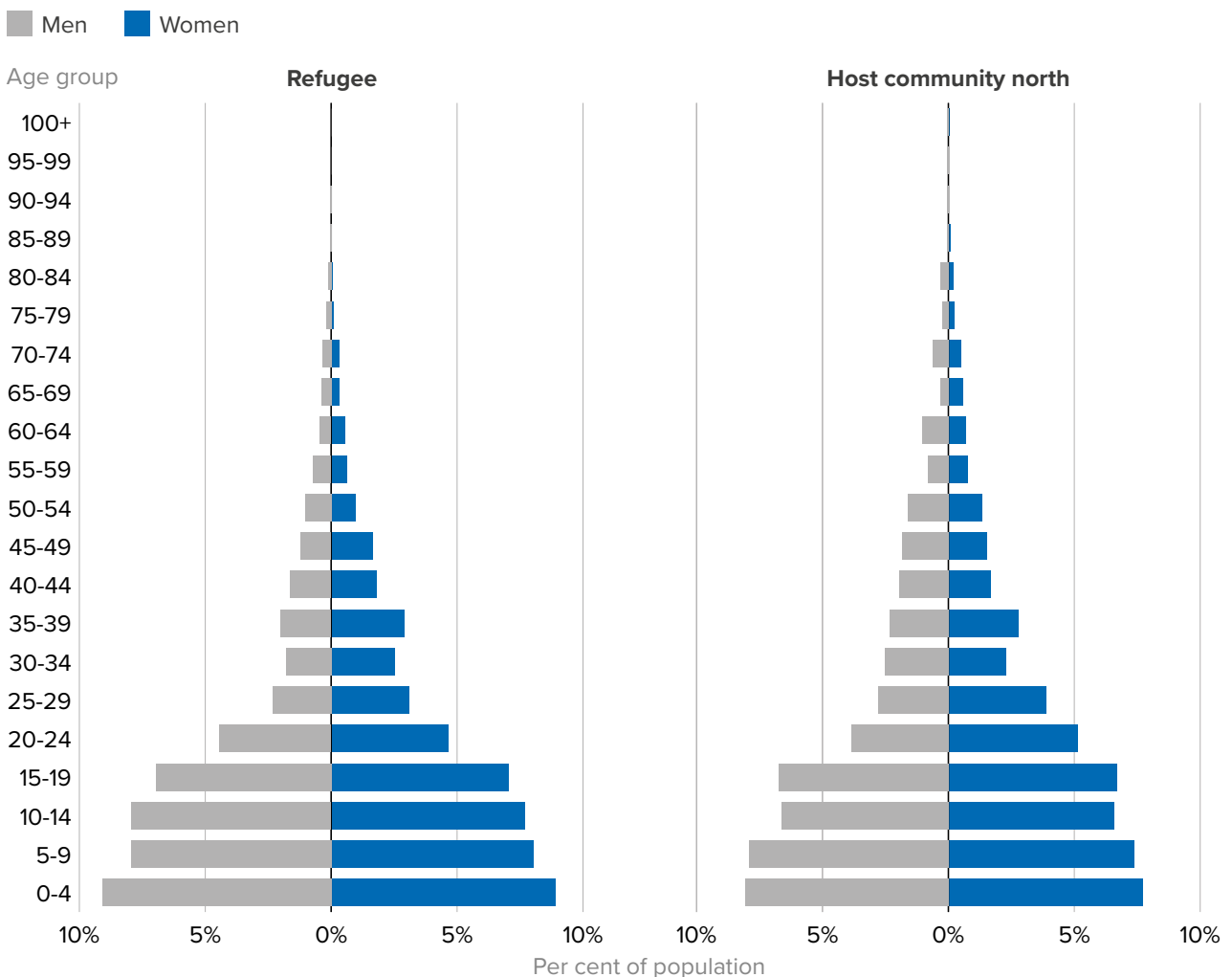
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Individual characteristics



Both the refugee and host populations are characterized by a large share of children and adolescents, with over half of the respective populations under 18. Refugees are particularly young: the proportion of minors is 58 per cent in both the North and South. Among the host community in the North the share is 52 per cent. The median age of refugees is 15—meaning that half of the refugee population is 15 or younger (15 in the North and 14 in the South). In the northern host community, the median age is 17.

FIGURE 10 POPULATION BY AGE

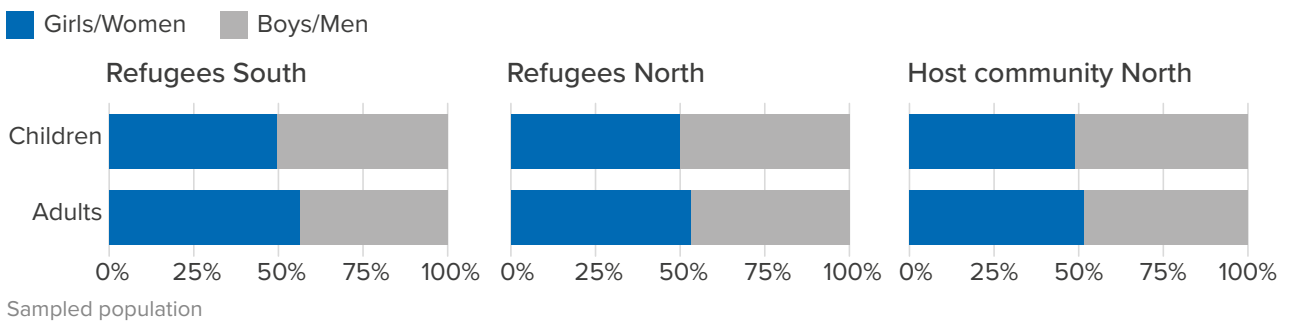


Sampled households

Women make up 54 per cent of the adult refugee population (54 per cent in the South and 53 per cent in the North). In the host community, the share

of women is 52 per cent of the adult population. Among children, the share of boys and girls is balanced.

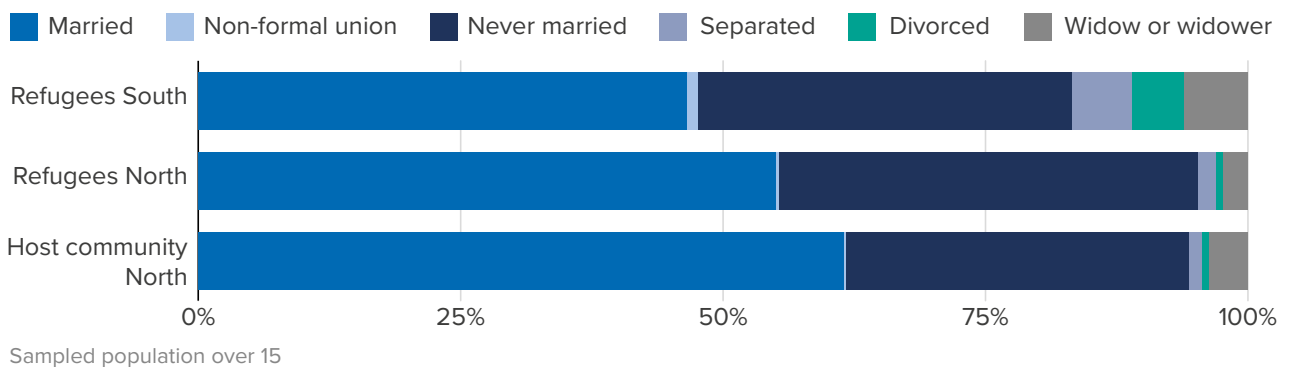
FIGURE 11 PROPORTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS



The share of married individuals aged 15 or over is lower for refugees in the South (47 per cent) and North (55 per cent) than in the host community in the North (61 per cent). Among adult refugees in the North, the share of individuals who have never been married is 40 per cent. The share is

similar among refugees in the South (36 per cent) and slightly higher than in the host community in the North (33 per cent). Refugees in the South consist of a particularly large share of widows and widowers and divorced or separated individuals.

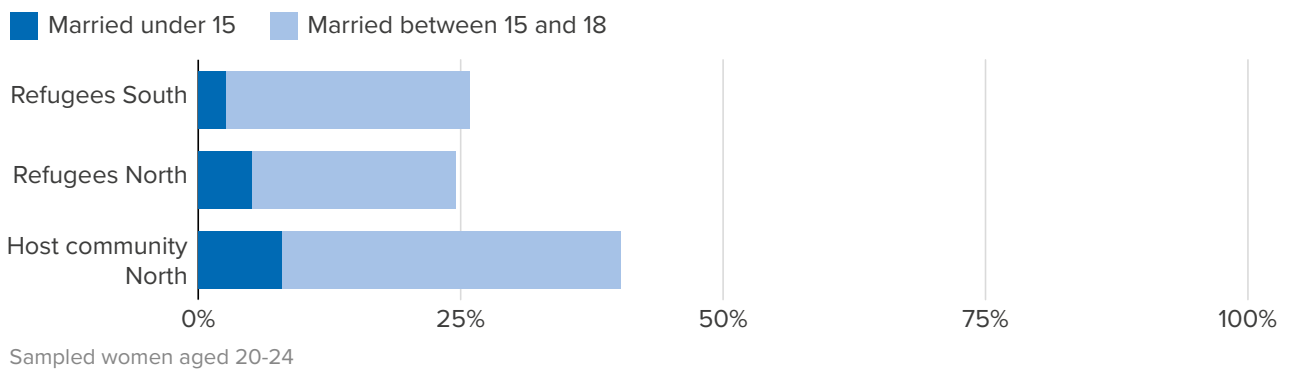
FIGURE 12 MARITAL STATUS



Among refugees, around one in four women between 20 and 24 were married before they turned 18.¹² The share of child and adolescent

marriages is much larger, at 40 per cent of women in the same age group among the host community in the North.

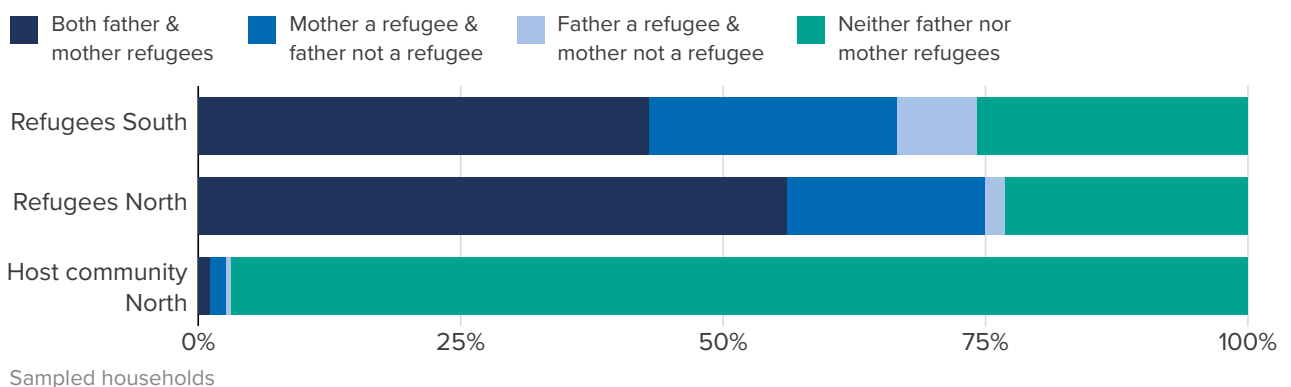
FIGURE 13 WOMEN WHO WERE IN A UNION BEFORE AGE 15/18



Around three-quarters of registered refugee household heads have at least one parent who is or was also a refugee (77 per cent in the North and 75 per cent in the South). If both of a refugee’s parents are not refugees, this most likely means

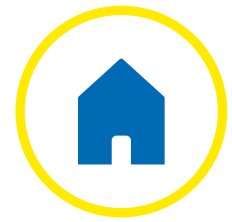
that the parents stayed in the country of origin and are not present in the country of asylum. Among the host community, just 3 per cent have at least one parent who was or is a refugee.

FIGURE 14 REFUGEE PARENTS



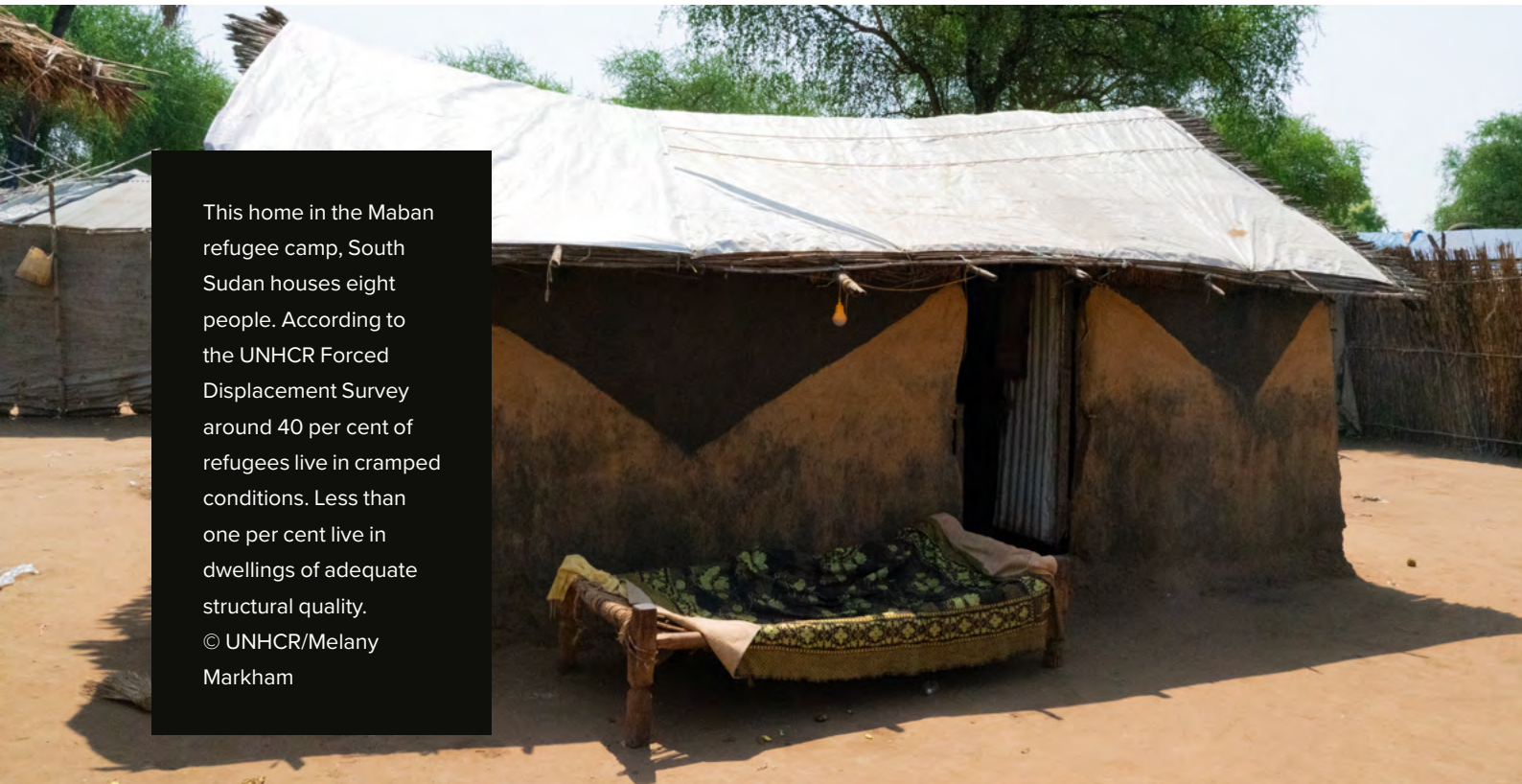
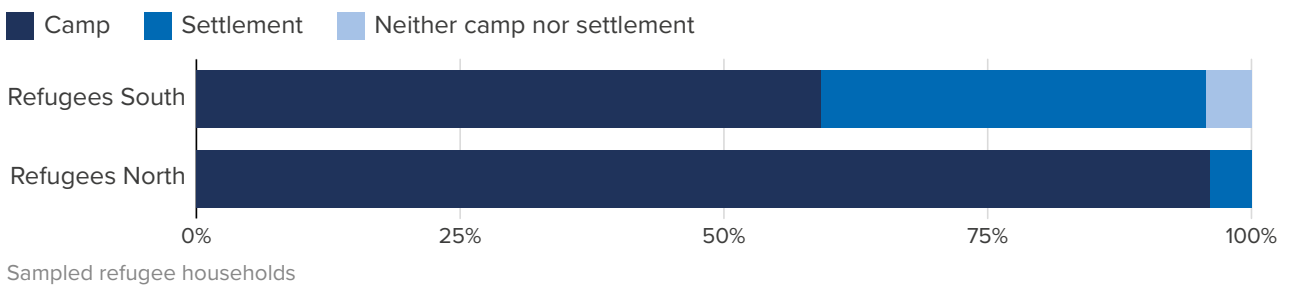
¹² Corresponds to SDG Indicator 5.3.1.

Household characteristics



Most refugee households in the North reside in camps (96 per cent).¹³ In the South, the share of the camp population is smaller than in the North (59 per cent).

FIGURE 15 REFUGEES' PLACE OF RESIDENCE



This home in the Maban refugee camp, South Sudan houses eight people. According to the UNHCR Forced Displacement Survey around 40 per cent of refugees live in cramped conditions. Less than one per cent live in dwellings of adequate structural quality.
© UNHCR/Melany Markham

¹³ See Figure 2 for a map of camp locations.

Host community households in the North have 8.1 members on average, similar to refugee households in the North. Refugee households in the South are slightly smaller, with a mean size of 6.6 members.

Around one-third of Northern host community households are headed by women (34 per cent). The proportion is higher among refugee households—44 per cent in the North and 52 per cent in the South (46 per cent for refugees at the national level).

The household dependency ratio measures the number of individuals younger than 15 or older than 64 (dependents) relative to the number of 15–64-year-olds (working-age individuals) per household. Dependents outnumber working-age individuals in each examined group. Among refugee households there are on average 1.23 children for each working-age adult (1.24 in the North and 1.19 in the South). In the host community in the North, the child dependency ratio is 1.06. In contrast, the average old-age dependency ratio is low across groups (0.05 for refugees and 0.08 for the Northern host community).

FIGURE 16 HOUSEHOLD DEPENDENCY RATIO

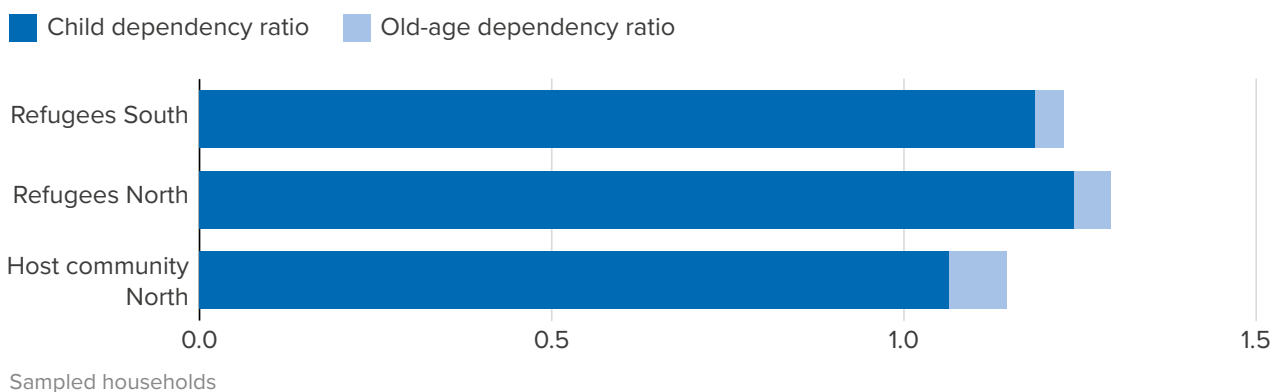
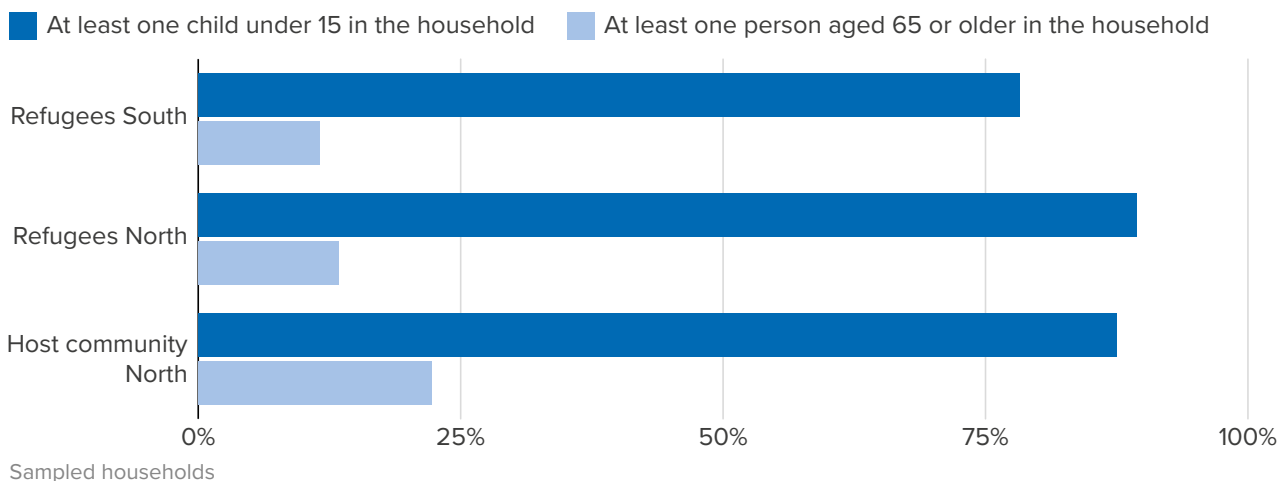
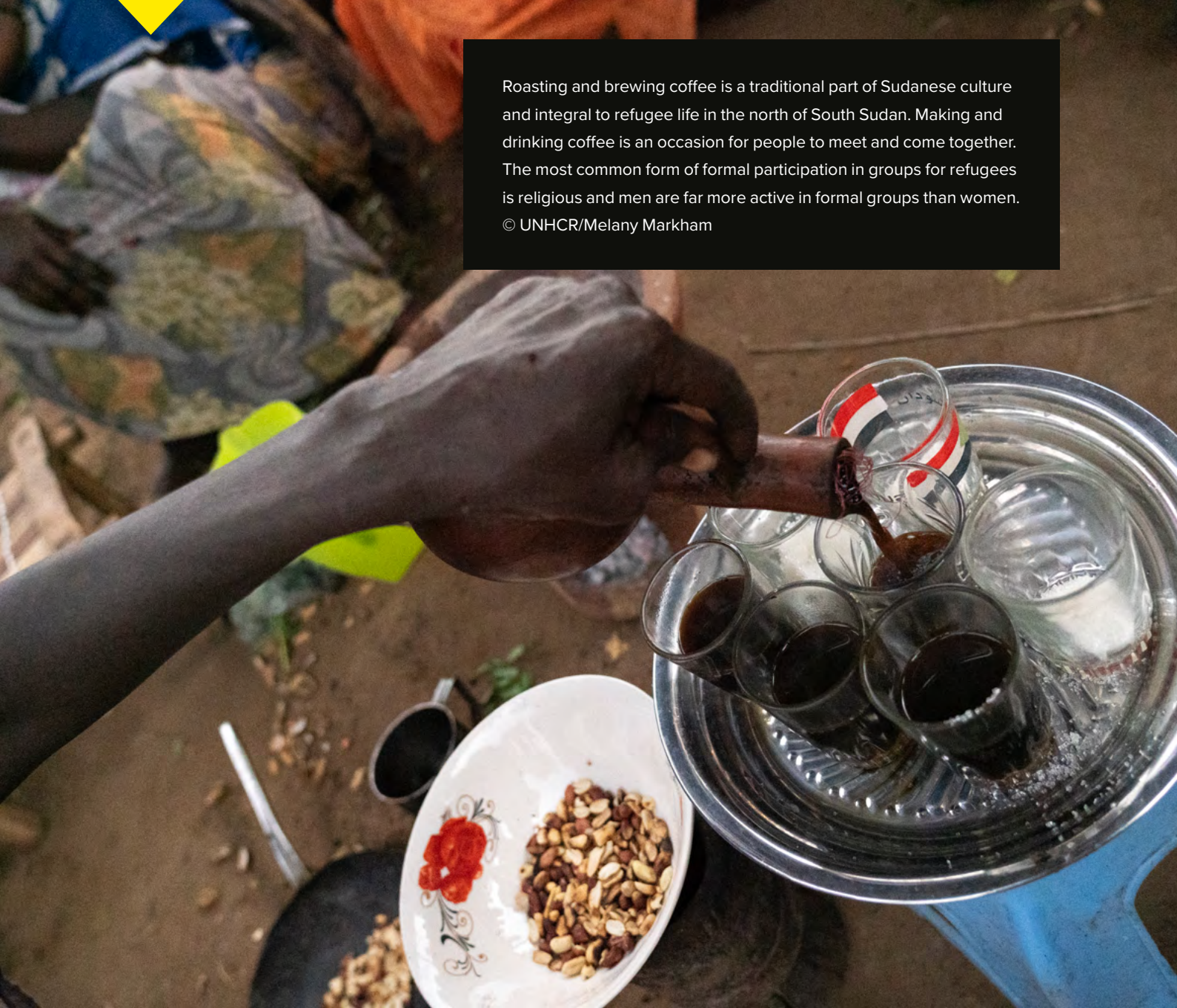


FIGURE 17 HOUSEHOLDS WITH DEPENDENTS



5

Social environment

A close-up photograph showing a person's hand pouring dark coffee from a traditional wooden coffee pot into several small glass cups arranged on a silver metal tray. In the foreground, there is a white bowl with a red floral pattern containing roasted coffee beans. The background is slightly blurred, showing a person wearing a patterned headscarf and a blue garment.

Roasting and brewing coffee is a traditional part of Sudanese culture and integral to refugee life in the north of South Sudan. Making and drinking coffee is an occasion for people to meet and come together. The most common form of formal participation in groups for refugees is religious and men are far more active in formal groups than women.
© UNHCR/Melany Markham

Mobility

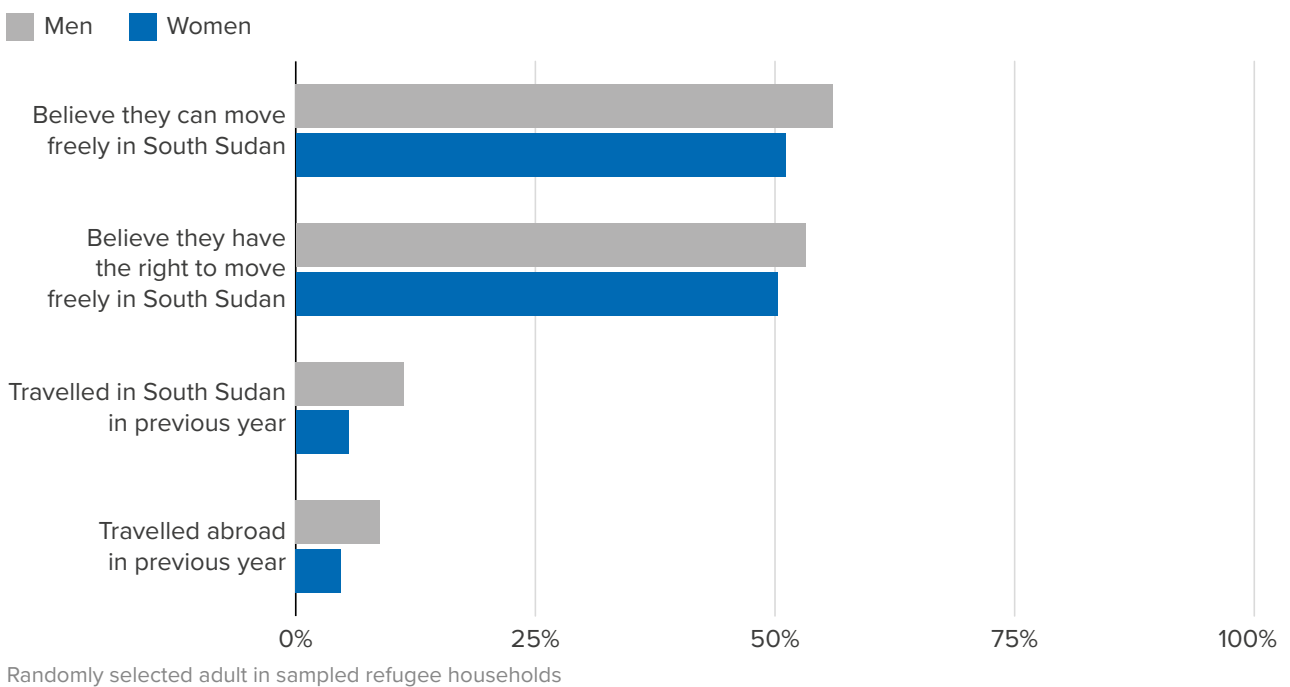


Just over half of registered refugees (53 per cent) believe they can travel freely in South Sudan and that they have the right to do so (52 per cent).

Of those refugees in the North who think they are able to move freely by law, 9 out of 10 believe that they are actually able to do so. In the South, the share is lower at 77 per cent.

A larger proportion of men than women believe they can move freely (56 per cent compared to 51 per cent), and men are twice as likely to have travelled in South Sudan in the previous year than women (11 per cent compared to 5 per cent).

FIGURE 18 FREE MOVEMENT



Participation

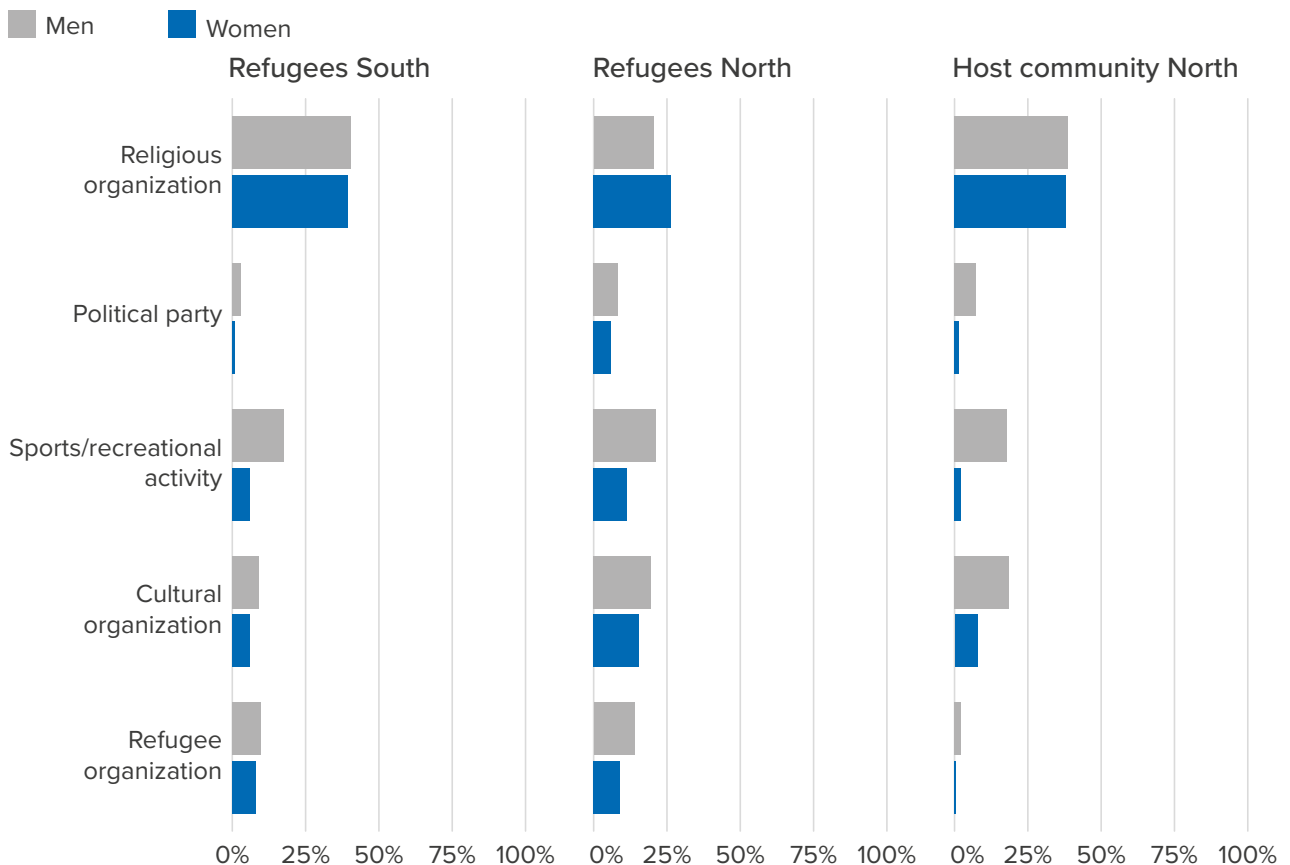


The most common form of organizational participation in local groups or activities in South Sudan is in religious groups.

In the North, 24 per cent of refugees are active members or leaders of religious organizations, as are 40 per cent of the surrounding host community and 38 per cent of refugees in the South. In the North, 11 per cent of adult refugees are active in refugee organizations (also known as community structures), as are 9 per cent in the South.

A far higher share of men participate in a sports or recreational organization than women (21 per cent compared to 10 per cent of women among refugees and 18 per cent compared to 2 per cent in the northern host community).

FIGURE 19 PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZATIONS/ACTIVITIES



Randomly selected adult in sampled households

Safety

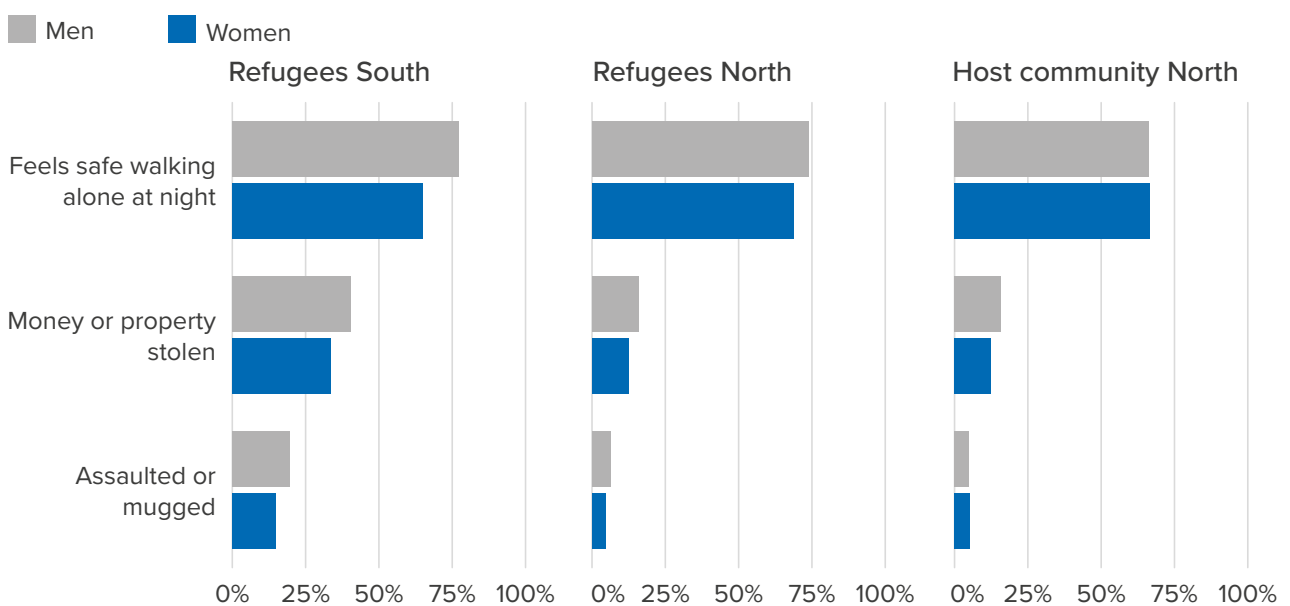


Around two-thirds of adult refugees and the host community feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night.¹⁴ Among refugees, more men (75 per cent) feel safe walking in the dark than women (68 per cent).

A larger proportion of refugees in the South (37 per cent) had money or property stolen in the previous year than refugees or members of the host community in the North (both 14 per cent). Similarly, the share of refugees from the South who experienced assault or mugging in the previous year is three times as high as among refugees

or the host community in the North (17 per cent compared to 5 per cent). One exception is the Doro refugee camp in the North, where the share of individuals who had property stolen (23 per cent) or were assaulted (10 per cent) is similar to the South.

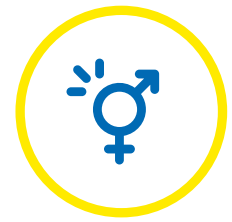
FIGURE 20 PERCEPTION OF SUBJECTIVE SAFETY, REPORTS OF THEFT AND ASSAULT IN THE PAST YEAR, BY GENDER



Randomly selected adult in sampled households

14 Corresponds to SDG Indicator 16.1.4.

Gender-based violence services



The sample population reports being familiar with available gender-based violence (GBV) services. Over three-quarters of refugees nationally are aware of at least one GBV service (77 per cent; 75 per cent in the North and 86 per cent in the South). In the host community in the North the share is 66 per cent. Awareness of GBV services is similar among both women and men.

The most widely-known GBV services among adults are health services for GBV (known by 85 per cent of refugees in the South, 72 per cent of refugees in the North, and 72 per cent of the host

community), followed by safety services such as safe shelters (known by 57 per cent of refugees in the South, 38 per cent of refugees in the North, and 38 per cent of the host community).

FIGURE 21 KNOWLEDGE OF ONE AVAILABLE GBV SERVICE



Randomly selected adult in sampled households

Discrimination

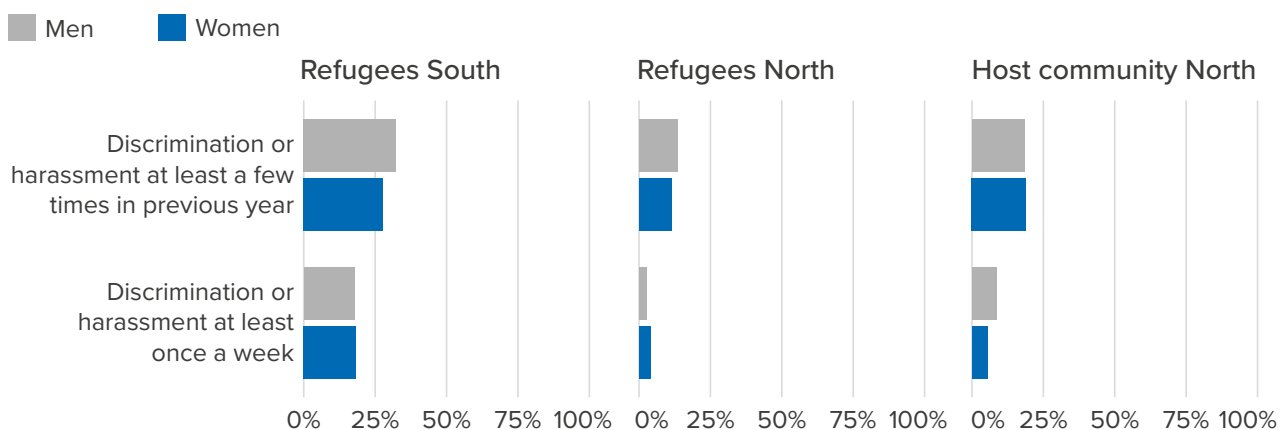


Close to half of adult refugees in the South (48 per cent) have experienced discrimination or harassment, either a few times in the previous year or as often as once a week.

This can include being treated rudely or with a lack of respect, encountering others who act superior to them, being called names or being threatened and harassed, either by other refugees or members of the host community. The share of refugees in the North who have experienced such frequent discrimination is less than half as large, at 15 per cent (for refugees nationally, 22 per cent). In the host community in the North the share is 26 per cent.

A larger share of refugees in the South report experiencing discrimination from members of the host community than refugees in the North (92 per cent compared to 56 per cent of those refugees who experienced discrimination).¹⁵ This is correlated with a larger share of refugees in the South living in close proximity to the host community in settlements, whereas refugees in the North almost exclusively live in camps.

FIGURE 22 EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

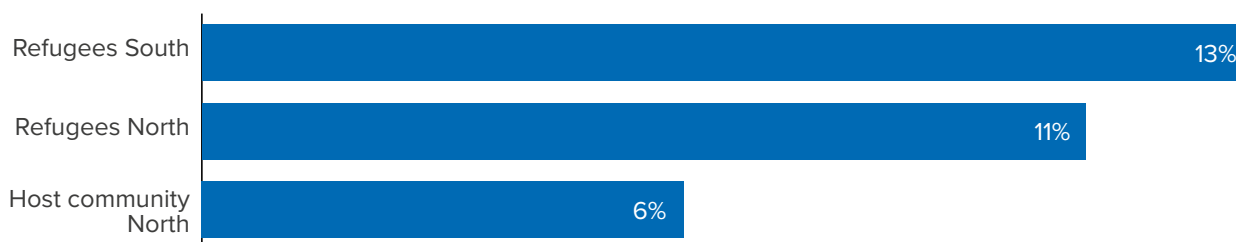


Randomly selected adult in sampled households

¹⁵ Only refugees were asked from whom they experienced discrimination.

The proportion of adults that experienced a dispute in the previous two years is around 11 per cent for refugees overall. The share is lower for adults in the host community in the North at 6 per cent.

FIGURE 23 EXPERIENCED A DISPUTE IN THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS



Randomly selected adult in sampled households

Manahil Hamid (15) drinks tea for breakfast before she goes to school. Her mother has eight children and, like 90 per cent of female headed households in the Maban refugee camp in the north of South Sudan, her family is severely food insecure. Many households limit the portion size and reduce the number of meals eaten every day.

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6

Basic needs



Amira Khalifa Husein walks home after collecting water from a well in Maban, South Sudan. Just over half of the refugee population have access to basic drinking water yet Amira is one of the lucky ones – over 40 per cent of refugees walk longer than half an hour to get water – she only has a few minutes to go.

© UNHCR/Melany Markham

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)



DRINKING WATER

Among refugees, 54 per cent have access to at least basic drinking water services. This means that they have an improved water source in their own dwelling or yard or one that they can reach in a 30-minute round trip or less. The share is lower among refugees in the South (38 per cent) than among those in the North (59 per cent). This disparity is most likely due to refugees in the North residing in structured camps, while those in the South mostly live in host communities. In camps, while there is universal access to an improved drinking water source, 41 per cent of refugees need longer than a half-hour round trip to collect water. Among refugees living in camps in the South, 43 per cent have access to basic drinking water services, compared to 28 per cent of those living in settlements.

In the North, the share of host community population with access to basic drinking water services is 40 per cent, lower than for refugees in the same region. Access is particularly limited for host community households headed by women (30 per cent, compared to 45 per cent of households in the host community headed by men). Among refugees, the difference between households headed by men and women is insignificant.

BASIC SANITATION

Just under half of refugees in the North (48 per cent) have access to basic sanitation facilities, defined as an improved sanitation facility that is not shared with other households.¹⁶ The population share with access to toilets is much lower among refugees in the South (25 per cent) and the host community living in the North (13 per cent). In particular, host community households in the North often completely lack any household toilet facilities, meaning that people resort to open defecation in outside areas.

A far smaller share of refugee households headed by women have access to basic sanitation facilities than those headed by men (36 per cent compared to 49 per cent for refugees). The opposite is true in the host community (18 per cent of female-headed households compared to 10 per cent of male-headed households). The share of refugees with disabilities who have access to basic sanitation facilities is similar to that of refugees without disabilities. In the host community, just 4 per cent of individuals with disabilities have access to basic sanitation than in the overall population.

¹⁶ Corresponds to SDG 3.8.1 Tracer 8.

HANDWASHING

Comparing the presence of handwashing facilities with water and soap shows a similar distribution as other examined WASH indicators.¹⁷ Refugees in the North have better access than the host community in the North or refugees in the South (43 per cent

compared to 13 and 16 per cent, respectively). Again, handwashing facilities are less common in refugee households headed by women (33 per cent) than those headed by men (41 per cent).

FIGURE 24 BASIC DRINKING WATER, SANITATION, AND HANDWASHING FACILITIES

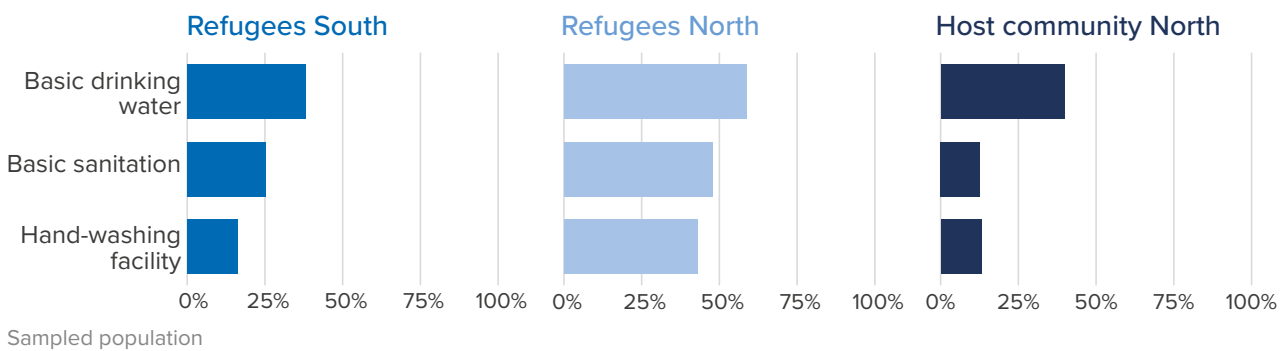
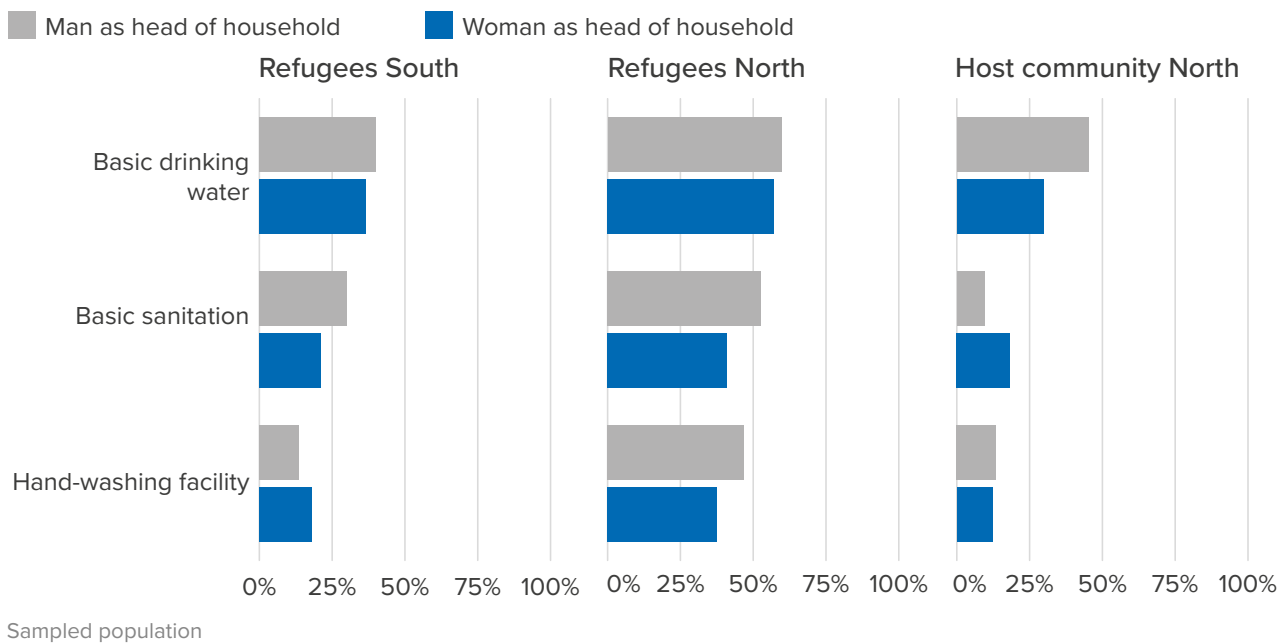


FIGURE 25 BASIC DRINKING WATER, SANITATION, AND HANDWASHING FACILITIES, BY GENDER



¹⁷ Corresponds to SDG Indicator 6.2.1b.

Clean energy



ELECTRICITY

There is a low level of access to sources of electricity that are capable of powering basic appliances and are regularly available.¹⁸ Only around 1 per cent of the host community and refugees in the North as well as refugees in the South have access to electricity following this definition.

CLEAN FUEL FOR COOKING AND LIGHTING

While electricity access is low, a higher proportion of the population has access to a clean light source—typically battery-powered (pictured right), rechargeable or solar torches.¹⁹ The share is 64 per cent among refugees and 51 per cent for the host population.

Almost no one in the sampled refugee and host community population reported using clean fuels for cooking. These are defined as fuels or cooking technologies with acceptable levels of air pollution for indoor use. Most sampled households instead burn wood, charcoal, or coal on open fires or in traditional ovens.

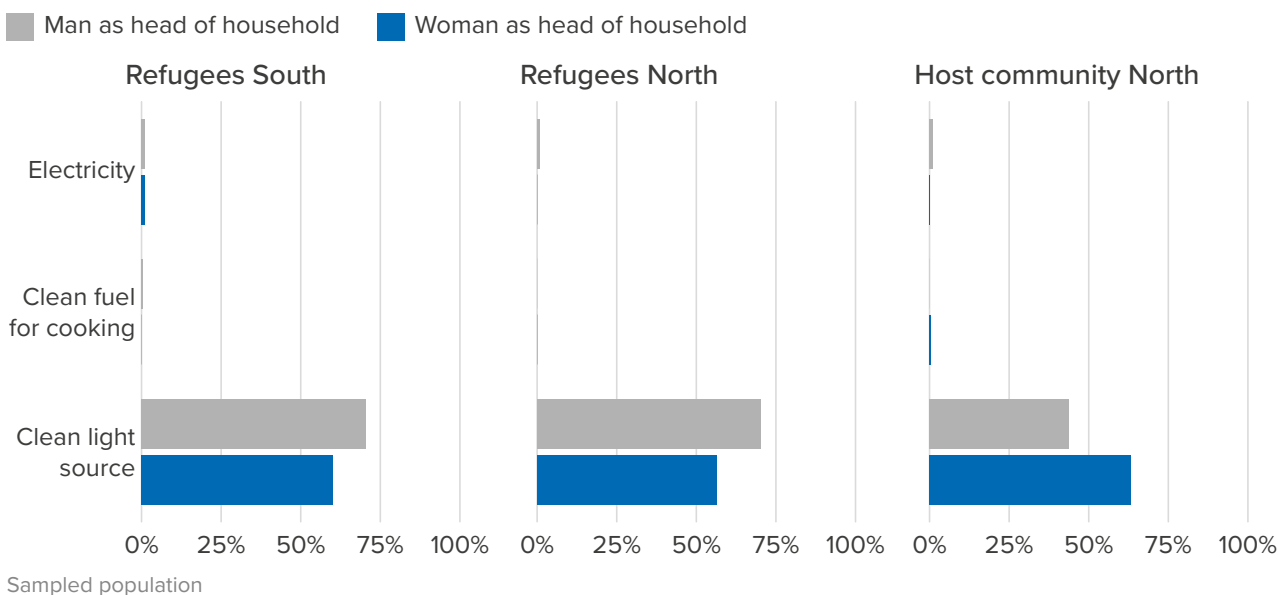
64 per cent of refugees use a clean light source such as this battery powered torch that is in the home of a refugee in Maban, South Sudan.
© UNHCR/Melany Markham



¹⁸ Corresponds to SDG Indicator 7.1.1.

¹⁹ Corresponds to SDG Indicator 7.1.2.

FIGURE 26 CLEAN ENERGY



Shelter



IMPROVED SHELTER

A dwelling is considered adequate living space if no more than three people sleep in each habitable room, according to UN-Habitat Guidelines. This is the case for just over half of sampled households (62 per cent among refugees in the South, 56 per cent among refugees in the North, and 54 per cent in the host community in the North).

A far smaller share of households live in dwellings of adequate structural quality, meaning apartments or houses with improved materials for the walls, roof, and floor. Less than 1 per cent of refugees and host community households in the North meet these standards, while the share is only slightly higher at 6 per cent for refugees in the South. Most households instead live in traditional houses, called Tukuls, or tents, especially in camp settings.

Health



ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Just under half (44 per cent) of refugees nationally needed to see a health care professional in the previous month for treatment other than pre- and postnatal care, birth, or family planning (38 per cent among refugees in the South and 46 per cent in the North). The share is 46 per cent among the host community in the North. A larger proportion of women than men needed health care (47 per cent compared to 41 per cent for refugees and 51 per cent compared to 42 per cent in the host community).

Particularly among refugees in the North, almost every individual who needed health care was able to access it (96 per cent). For refugees in the South and the host community in the North, the share is similarly high (87 and 88 per cent, respectively).

Health services in camps in the North of South Sudan are also free, and only a small share of refugees in the North who needed health care report paying out-of-pocket (OOP) fees (9 per cent). The share is over twice as high for the host community in the North (20 per cent) and over five times as high among refugees in the South (51 per cent).

Amira (standing) and her daughter Muna (sitting at right) visit a health clinic with Muna's ten day old infant. Over 90 per cent of refugees who need healthcare in South Sudan are able to access it thanks to organization such as Relief International, who operate this healthcare center.
© UNHCR/Melany Markham

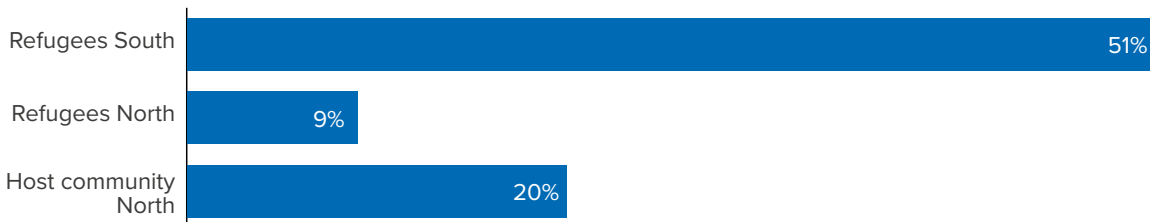


FIGURE 27 ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES



Randomly selected adult in sampled households who needed health care in the previous month

FIGURE 28 OUT-OF-POCKET FEES FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES



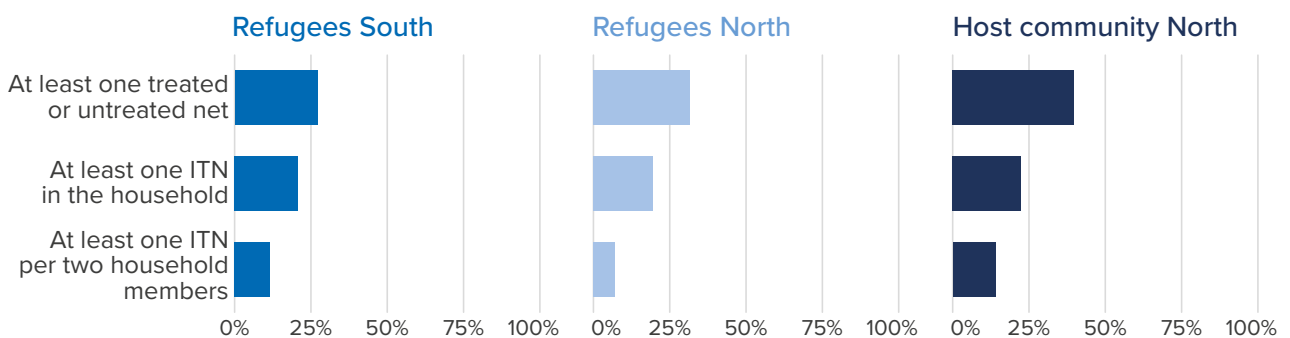
Randomly selected adult in sampled households who accessed health care in the previous month

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AGAINST MALARIA

Around one-third of refugee households have at least one available treated or untreated mosquito net (32 per cent in the North and 27 per cent in the South). This is slightly less than in the host community (40 per cent). The percentage of households who report owning an insecticide-treated net (ITN) is lower, at around one in five refugee and host community households—although it may be the case that refugee

households are unaware that mosquito nets that they receive upon arrival, for pregnancies, childbirth, or from other distribution programmes come previously treated. Households headed by men have better access to ITNs than those headed by men in both the host community (38 per cent compared to 17 per cent) and among refugees (24 per cent compared to 16 per cent).

FIGURE 29 MOSQUITO NETS USED FOR SLEEPING THE PREVIOUS NIGHT



Sampled households

Maternal and child health



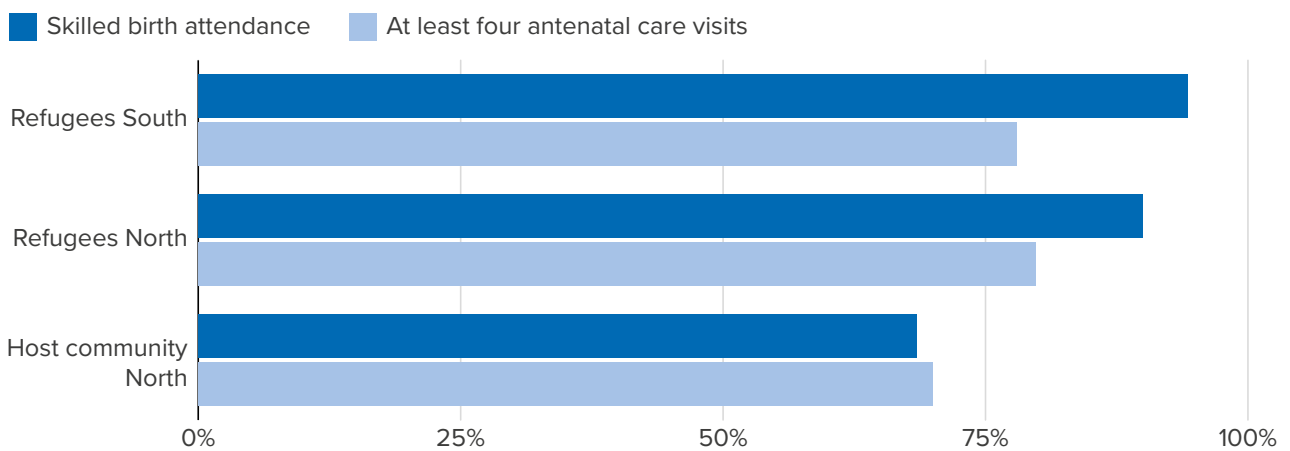
SKILLED BIRTH ATTENDANCE

For refugees, 91 per cent of births to women between the ages of 15 and 49 in the previous two years were attended by skilled health personnel, such as a doctor, nurse, or midwife (90 per cent for refugees in the North and 94 per cent for refugees in the South).²⁰ The share of births attended by skilled personnel is lower in the Northern host community, at 68 per cent.²¹

ANTENATAL CARE

An alternative indicator of maternal health care is access to antenatal care. In the North, 80 per cent of women between the ages of 15 and 49 went to at least four antenatal check-ups.²² In the South the share 78 is per cent. The proportion is lower among the host community in the North at 70 per cent.

FIGURE 30 BIRTH ATTENDANCE AND ANTENATAL CARE



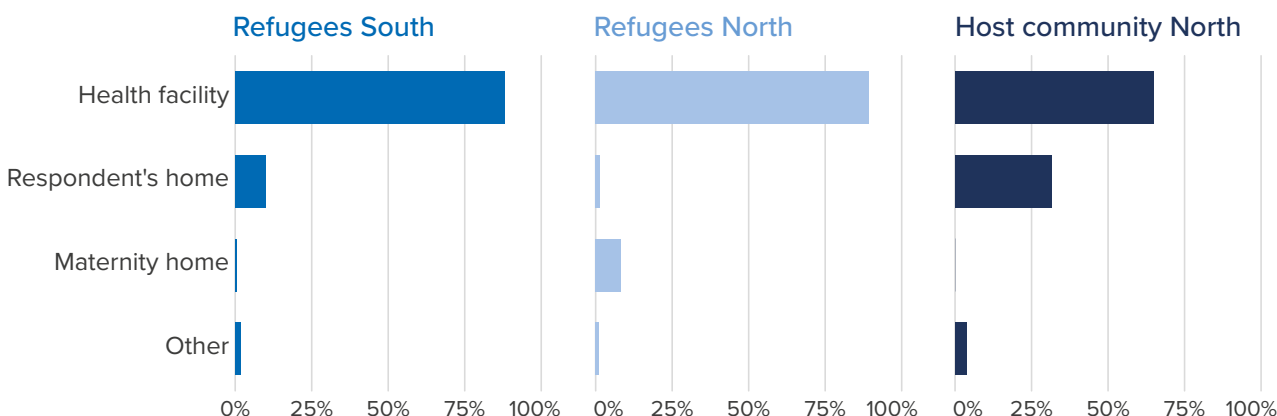
Randomly selected woman who gave birth in the previous two years in sampled households

²⁰ Corresponds to SDG Indicator 3.1.2.

²¹ A challenge with this indicator lies in determining which attendants are skilled based on respondents' reports. However, there are additional indications that skilled birth attendance is higher among refugees. For example, female refugees are more likely to give birth in a health facility than women from the host community (89 per cent compared to 65 per cent).

²² Corresponds to SDG Indicator 3.8.1 tracer indicator 2.

FIGURE 31 PLACE OF BIRTH



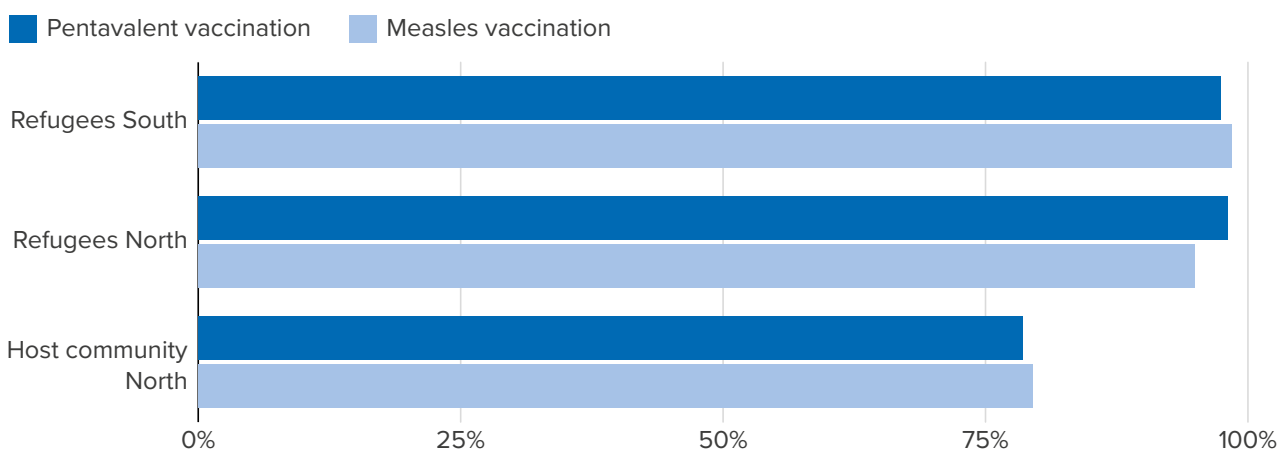
Randomly selected woman who gave birth in the previous two years in sampled households

CHILD VACCINATIONS

Most children between the ages of nine months and five years have received both the Pentavalent vaccine (also known as the 5-in-1 vaccine) and the measles vaccine.²³ The share of vaccinated infants and young children is particularly high among refugees, with 98 per cent having received the Pentavalent vaccine and 96 per cent the measles vaccine. In the South, 97 per

cent have received the Pentavalent vaccine and 98 per cent the measles vaccine, with similar vaccination rates among refugees in the North. In the host community, vaccinations are less common, with around four in five children receiving the Pentavalent and measles vaccines (both 79 per cent).

FIGURE 32 CHILD VACCINATIONS



Randomly selected children aged nine months to five years in sampled households

23 SDG Indicator 3.8.1 tracer indicator 3 measures the proportion of children between the ages of nine months and five years who have received the Pentavalent vaccination.

Education



SCHOOL COMPLETION

Among refugees aged between 14 and 34,²⁴ 41 per cent have completed their primary education (the first six years of education, following the International Standard Classification of Education). The share is 27 per cent in the host community in the North and 39 among refugees in the North. The primary school completion rate of boys/men

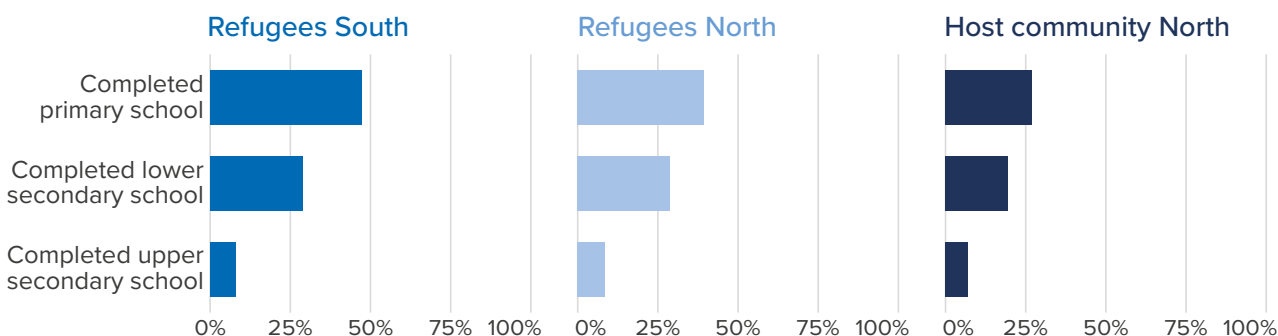
is higher than for girls/women. Around half of male refugees between 14 and 34 have completed primary school, compared to one-third of female refugees. In the host community the difference is even larger (38 per cent of boys/men and 18 per cent of girls/women).



Manahil's classroom at Balila Primary School has students from the refugee and host community. Classes can have up to 300 students enrolled and up to 160 attending in a single day. Only a third of female refugee students complete primary and only 18 per cent of girls from the host community do.
© UNHCR/Melany Markham

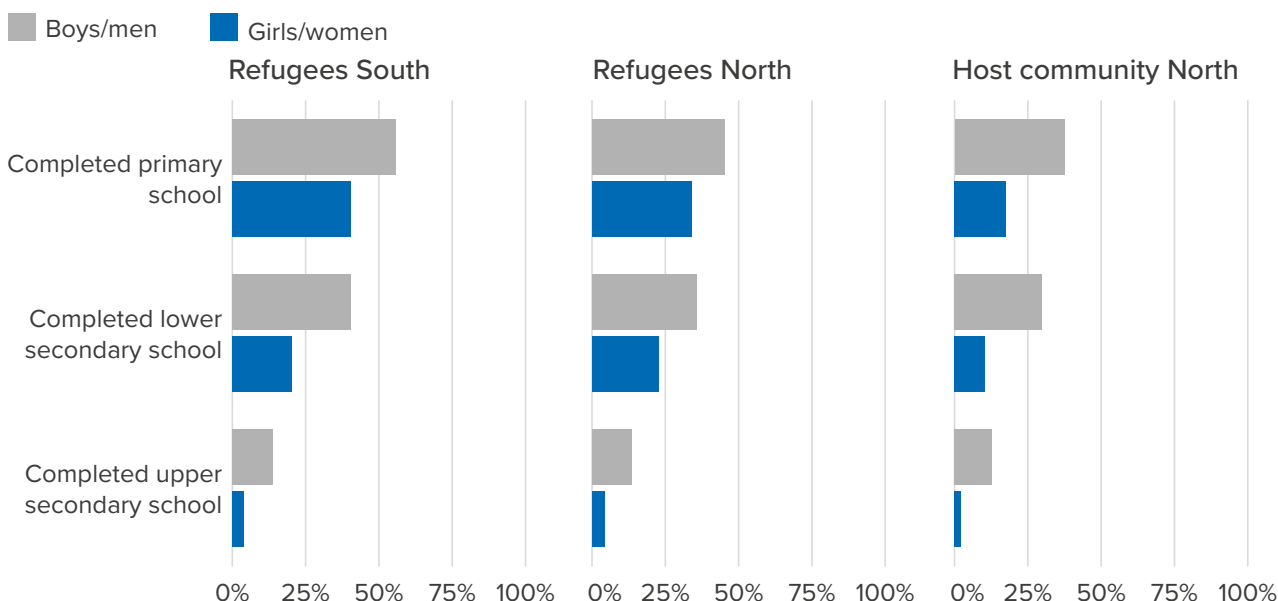
²⁴ Following the recommendations of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS), the age denominator is broader than used in other indicators for completion of education, such as SDG Indicator 4.1.2. This is because refugees often experience disruptions in their education.

FIGURE 33 SCHOOL COMPLETION



Sampled population aged three years above the intended age for the final year of the respective school level to 34

FIGURE 34 SCHOOL COMPLETION, BY GENDER



Sampled population aged three years above the intended age for the final year of the respective school level to 34

Lower secondary school completion rates are also higher among refugees (29 per cent) than in the host community in the North (20 per cent). The completion rate in the overall refugee sample is at 29 per cent with considerable gender differences: 36 per cent among male compared to 22 per cent among female refugees completed lower secondary education. This gender difference is even more pronounced in the host community, where the completion rate is three times higher among men and boys (30 per cent) than among women and girls (10 per cent).

Many adolescents and young adults drop out of education during secondary school, particularly young women: Among refugees, 4 per cent of women have completed upper secondary school, compared to 14 per cent of men. In the Northern host community, the upper secondary completion rate is just 2 per cent for women compared to 13 per cent for men.

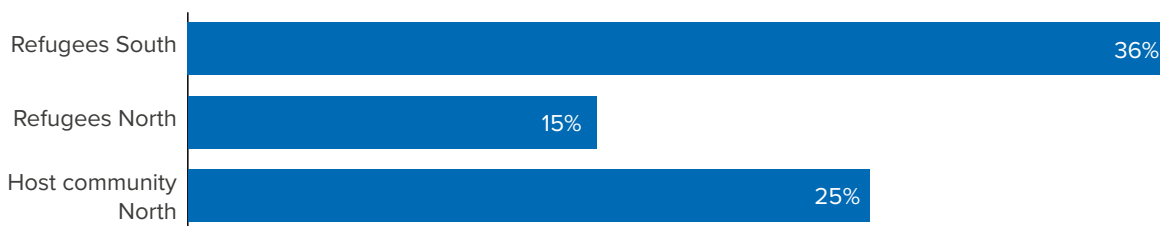
INTERRUPTIONS TO SCHOOLING

Schooling is often disrupted in South Sudan, meaning that many adolescents complete their primary or secondary education later than the intended age. In refugee households in the South, almost one in three children have experienced a disruption in their education. The share is 15 per cent and 25 per cent among refugees and the host community in the North, respectively. Among refugees, 21 per cent of girls and women have experienced disruptions to their education,

compared to 17 per cent of men (19 per cent among refugees overall). In the host community the share of women with disrupted schooling is 28 per cent, compared to 22 per cent of men.

The most frequent reason for disrupted education is high costs (33 per cent of refugees in both the North and South and 42 per cent of the host community whose education was interrupted). As schooling is free for refugees in camps, this may refer to costs of school materials, uniforms, or transportation.

FIGURE 35 INTERRUPTIONS TO EDUCATION



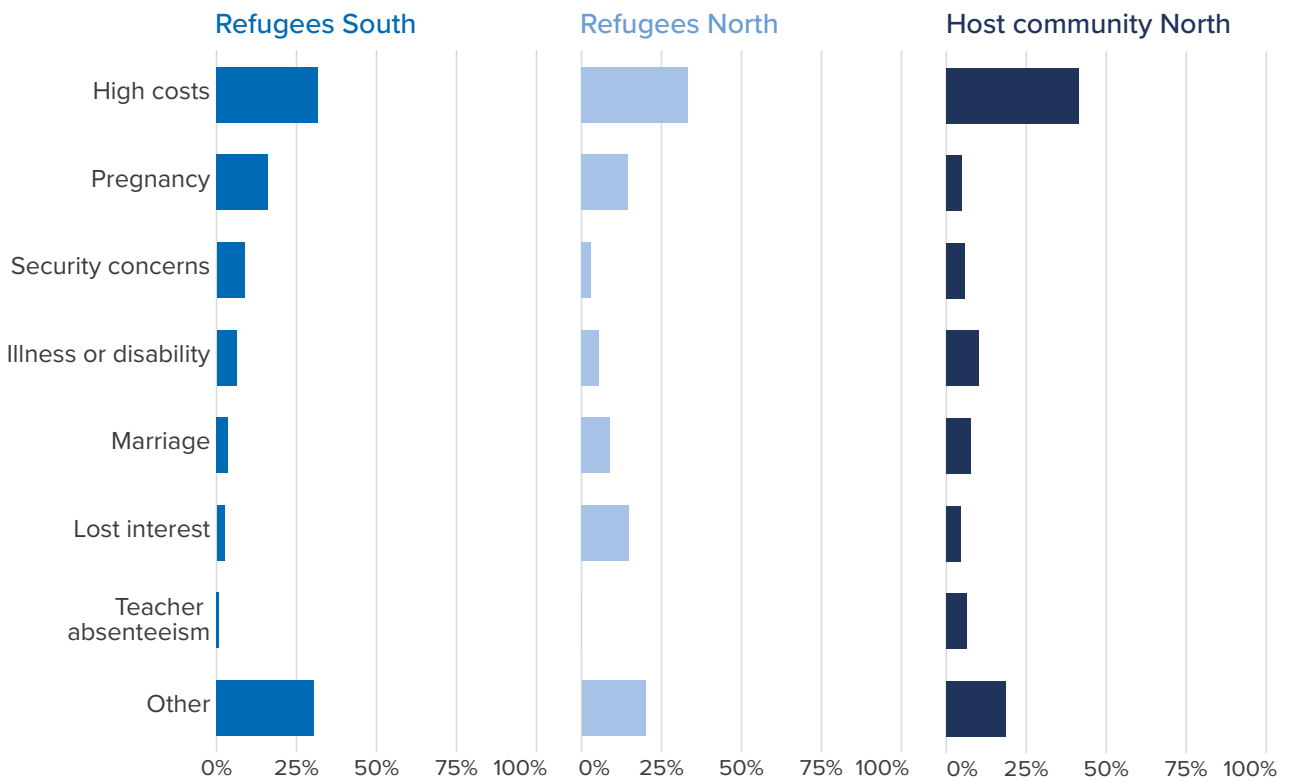
Sampled population currently in education

Balila Primary School, in the north of South Sudan, has students from the refugee and host community. Classes can have up to 300 students enrolled and up to 160 attending in a single day. According to the Forced Displacement Survey conducted in 2023, only 41 per cent of refugees under 34 in Maban have completed their primary education. Across the country, many students, particularly young women, drop out of education during secondary school. Only four per cent of female refugees have completed upper secondary school, compared to 14 per cent of males.

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FIGURE 36 REASONS FOR INTERRUPTIONS TO EDUCATION



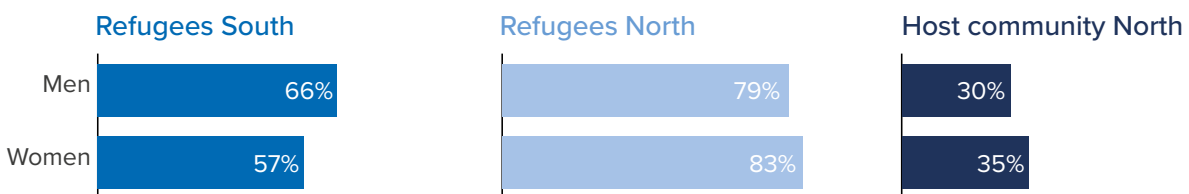
Sampled population currently in education whose education was interrupted

PARTICIPATION IN PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Participation in organised learning before primary school is measured as the proportion of girls and boys one year below the official primary entry age (which is five) attending preschool.²⁵ The share is

particularly high among refugees at 77 per cent (81 per cent in the North and 61 per cent in the South). The share is lower in the host community in the North (32 per cent).

FIGURE 37 PRE-PRIMARY PARTICIPATION RATE



Sampled population aged five, i.e. one year before the intended primary school age

²⁵ Corresponds to SDG Indicator 4.2.2.

Food and nutrition



Many refugee and host community households are affected by food insecurity. The following indicators covering food consumption, food access, hunger, and coping strategies demonstrate this across various dimensions of food insecurity.²⁶

The **Food Consumption Score** (FCS) measures how diverse households' diets are, how frequently they consume food, and how nutritional that food is over the previous seven days. Around two-thirds of refugee households are classified as having poor food consumption, although the share is much larger in the North (74 per cent) than in the South

(53 per cent). For a further 17 per cent of refugees in the North and 31 per cent of refugees in the South, food consumption is "borderline" according to the FCS (20 per cent of refugees nationally). The share of households with poor food consumption among the host community in the North is similar to that of refugees in the North at 72 per cent.



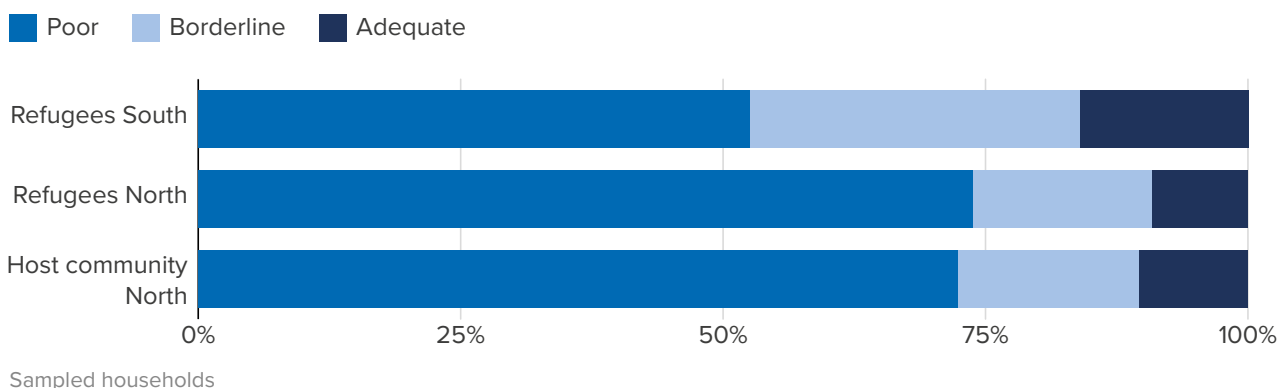
A refugee holds a container of maize, which her family has grown in a plot of land far from where they live in the Maban refugee camp. 72 per cent of refugees and host communities in the North have poor food consumption. © UNHCR/Melany Markham

²⁶ The survey was conducted from April to December 2023. The first few months of data collection were during "lean season," the time before the harvest when food stocks have run out. Therefore, seasonality has likely affected the outcomes.

A larger share of households headed by women are considered to have poor food consumption among refugees (79 per cent compared to 70 per cent among refugees in the North and

59 per cent compared to 46 per cent among refugees in the South). This is not the case for host-community households.

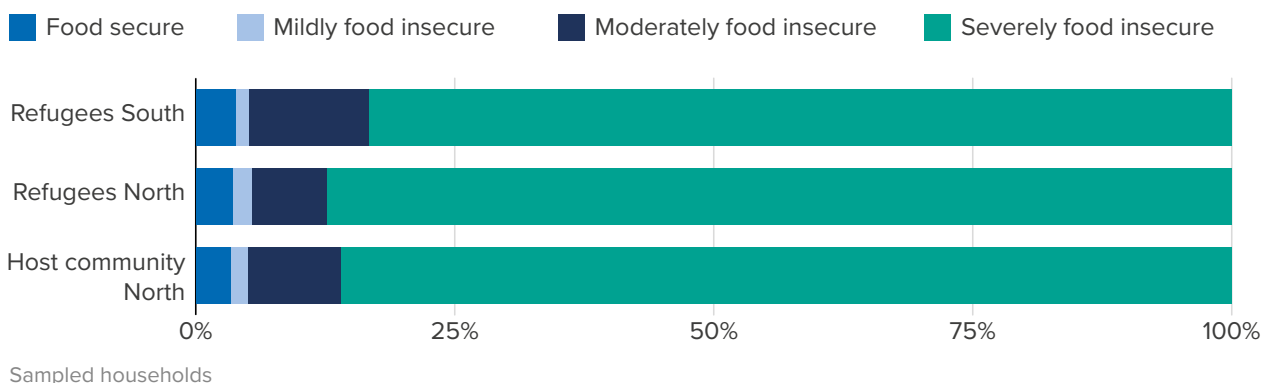
FIGURE 38 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE CATEGORIES



The **Household Food Insecurity Access Scale** (HFIAS) measures food insecurity in the previous month across nine different dimensions, such as if households were forced to reduce the number of meals or the quality of food due to a lack of resources. Severe food insecurity is widespread in South Sudan, with 86 per cent of both refugee and host community households affected.

A slightly higher proportion of female-headed refugee households (90 per cent) is severely food insecure compared to male-headed refugee households (83 per cent). Among the host community in the North, the opposite is true—88 per cent of households with a man as head are severely food insecure, compared to 82 per cent of households headed by women.

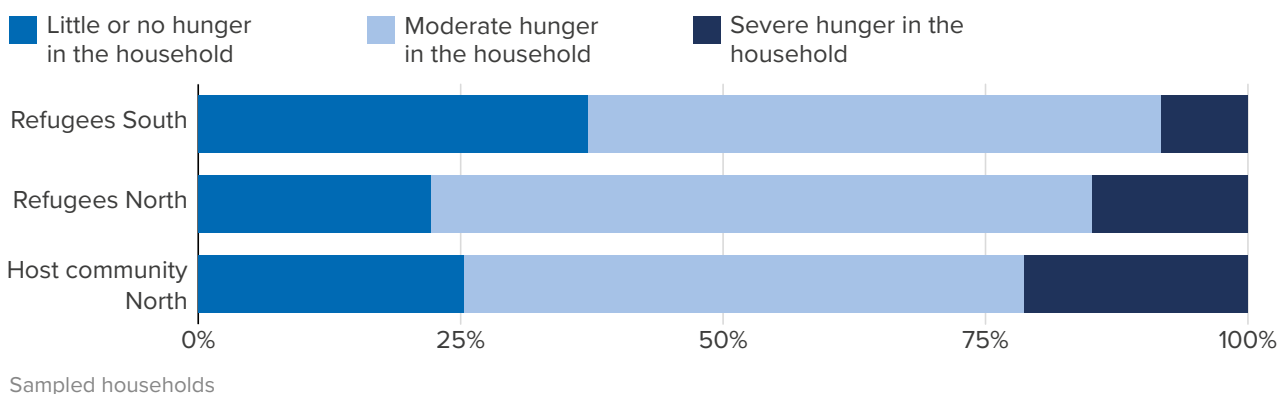
FIGURE 39 HOUSEHOLD FOOD INSECURITY ACCESS



The **Household Hunger Scale** (HHS) measures access to food with three of the most severe dimensions of the HFIAS, reflecting extreme food deprivation and hunger.²⁷ According to the HHS, 74 per cent of households in the host community in

the North experienced severe or moderate hunger in the previous month. A large share of refugee households in the North (78 per cent) and in the South (63 per cent) also experienced hunger (74 per cent or refugees nationally).

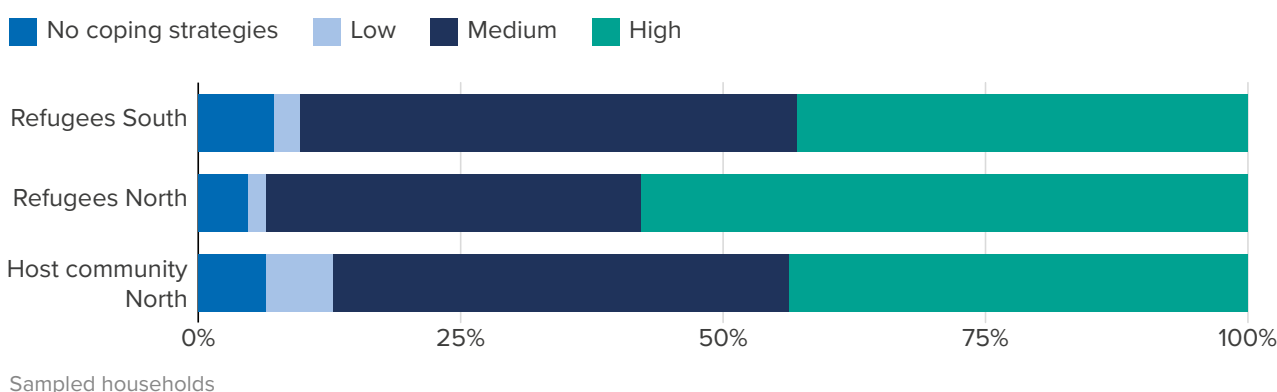
FIGURE 40 HOUSEHOLD HUNGER SCALE



The **Reduced Coping Strategies Index** (rCSI) assesses whether households resorted to strategies to cope with not having enough food or money for food over the previous week, such as borrowing food or limiting portion sizes. Across

all groups, most households resort to coping strategies. However, it could be that the most food-insecure households are not able to use these strategies because they cannot limit food intake or expenditure any further.

FIGURE 41 REDUCED COPING STRATEGIES INDEX



²⁷ The questions cover whether there was no food to eat of any kind, if a household member went to sleep at night hungry, or went a whole day and night without eating because there was not enough food in the past four weeks.

Social protection

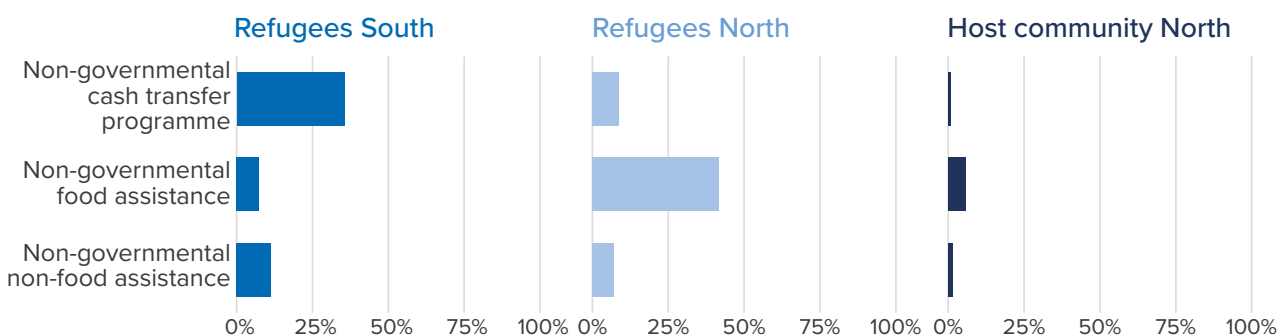


Social assistance almost exclusively comes from non-governmental actors, such as UNHCR and other international organizations, religious groups, community organizations or non-governmental organizations (NGOs). There is a major difference in access to social assistance between refugees and the host community. Just over half of refugees live in households that received cash, food, or in-kind assistance in the previous 12 months (52 per cent), compared to 1 in 10 individuals in the host community in the North. Differences in access to social assistance are insignificant for people with and without disabilities.

Refugees in the North and South tend to receive different kinds of assistance. In the North, where most households reside in structured camps, 42 per cent of individuals live in households that received food assistance. The share is particularly high in Pariang, where three-quarters of refugees live in households that received food assistance. In the South, where more refugees live in settlements

with the host community and have access to farming, a smaller share of refugees received food assistance (7 per cent). For cash assistance, the opposite is true: over one-third of refugees in the South live in households that receive cash assistance (36 per cent), while the share is lower in the North (ranging from just 1 per cent in Pariang to 13 per cent in Maban).

FIGURE 42 SOCIAL PROTECTION



Sampled population

7

Livelihoods

The proportion of adults with mobile money accounts in South Sudan is less than five per cent. Most people still use cash, the South Sudan Pound.

© UNHCR/Melany Markham



Employment

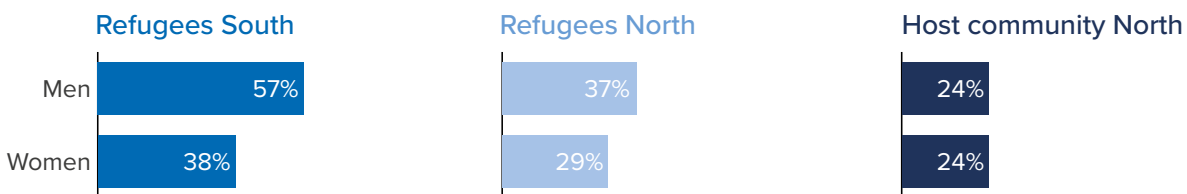


The labour force participation rate captures the economically active share of the population, measured as the number of employed and unemployed individuals who are actively seeking work relative to the working-age population of individuals aged 15 and over. This includes people who work in market-oriented agriculture or own a family business. Around one-quarter of the host community in the North (24 per cent) are active in the labour force, lower than among refugees in the North (32 per cent) and South (46 per cent). Individuals outside the labour force typically work

in non-market-oriented subsistence agriculture or in the household. The labour force participation rate in the overall refugee population is 35 per cent.

Among refugees, the labour force participation rate is higher for men than women in the South (57 compared to 38 per cent) and North (37 compared to 29 per cent). This is not the case for the host community, with barely any difference in labour force participation between men and women.

FIGURE 43 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE



Randomly selected adult in sampled households

The unemployment rate is the number of people without a job who are actively seeking employment and who are available to work as a percentage of the labour force. The unemployment rate among refugees and the host

community in the North is the same (20 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively). The unemployment rate is lower among refugees in the South, at 11 per cent. Overall, 18 per cent of the refugee population is unemployed.

FIGURE 44 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Randomly selected adult in sampled households who are in the labour force

Financial services

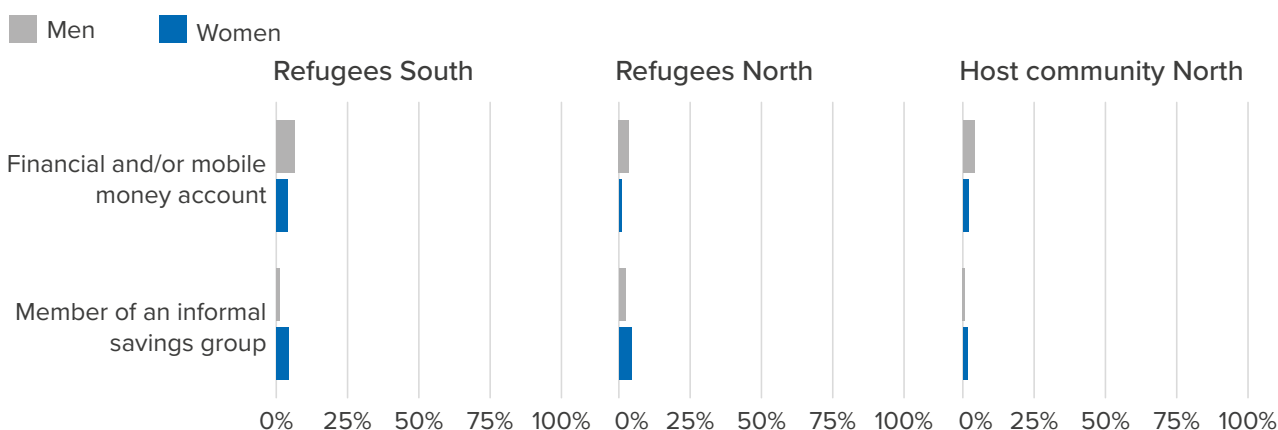


ACCOUNT OWNERSHIP

The proportion of adults with a formal bank account and/or mobile money account is low across groups, at 3 per cent and 3 per cent of refugees nationally (2 per cent of refugees in the North and 3 per cent in the South).²⁸ The share is similar among refugees in the South (5 per cent) and the host community in the North (3 per cent),

with 3 per cent of all refugees having a formal bank or mobile money account. The lack of access to financial services limits the ability to save, receive remittances, or access credit. Informal savings groups are not widely used either, with only 3 per cent of refugees enrolled, while the share is 1 per cent among the host community in the North.

FIGURE 45 FINANCIAL OR MOBILE MONEY ACCOUNT OWNERSHIP



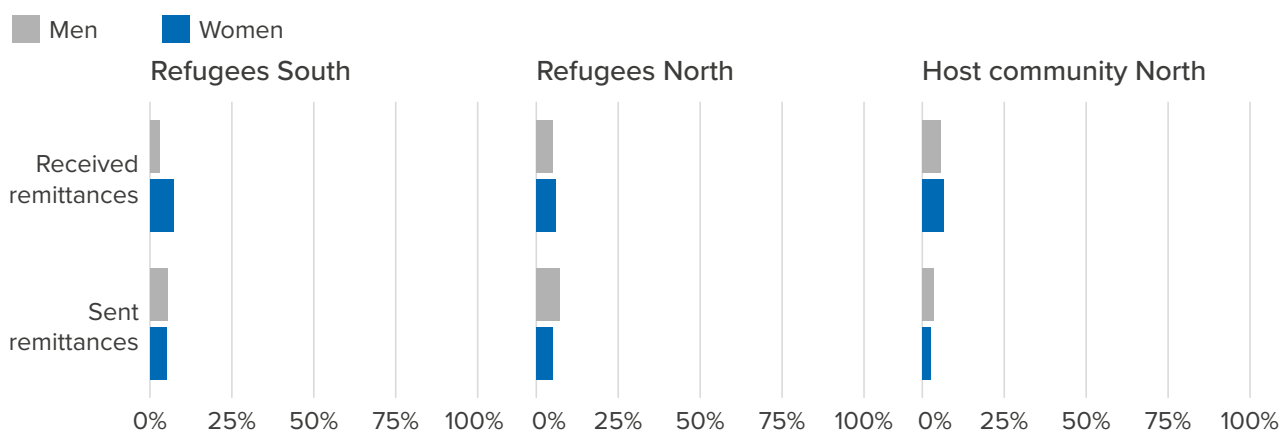
Randomly selected adult in sampled households

REMITTANCES

The proportion of adult refugees over the age of 15 living in households that received remittances in the previous 12 months is 5 per cent, while a similar share sent remittances. In the host community, 6 per cent of adults live in households that received remittances (6 per cent among refugees in the North), while around half as many, 3 per cent, sent remittances (6 per cent for refugees in the North).

²⁸ Corresponds to SDG Indicator 8.10.2.

FIGURE 46 REMITTANCES IN THE HOUSEHOLD



Randomly selected adult in sampled households

Land and property



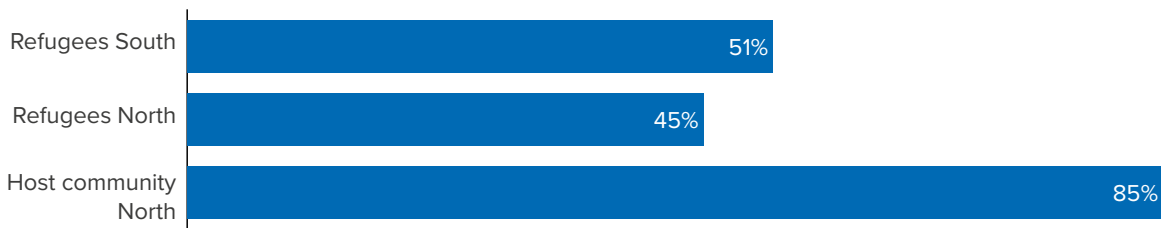
Among refugee households, 46 per cent of adults live in households that own land or have use rights for a plot (45 per cent in the North and 45 per cent in the South). The share is 85 per cent for the host community in the North.

Land rights for refugees are typically agreed upon at the community level in South Sudan. Refugees in the North do not have a formal document as proof of ownership or use right for the plot of land on which they live.²⁹ In the South, the share is slightly higher (9 per cent), as refugees are more likely to live in the host community. Among all adult refugees, 4 per cent have a formal document as proof of ownership or use right. In the host community, 27 per cent of households have legally recognized documentation for land tenure. The shares are similar for both women and men.

Less than a quarter of adult refugees (22 per cent, same among refugees in the North only) consider it unlikely that they will be evicted from the plot of land on which they live in the next five years. However, in reality, eviction would imply closing the camps. In contrast, a far larger share of hosts—71 per cent—are confident about their land tenure and think that eviction from their land is unlikely in the next five years.

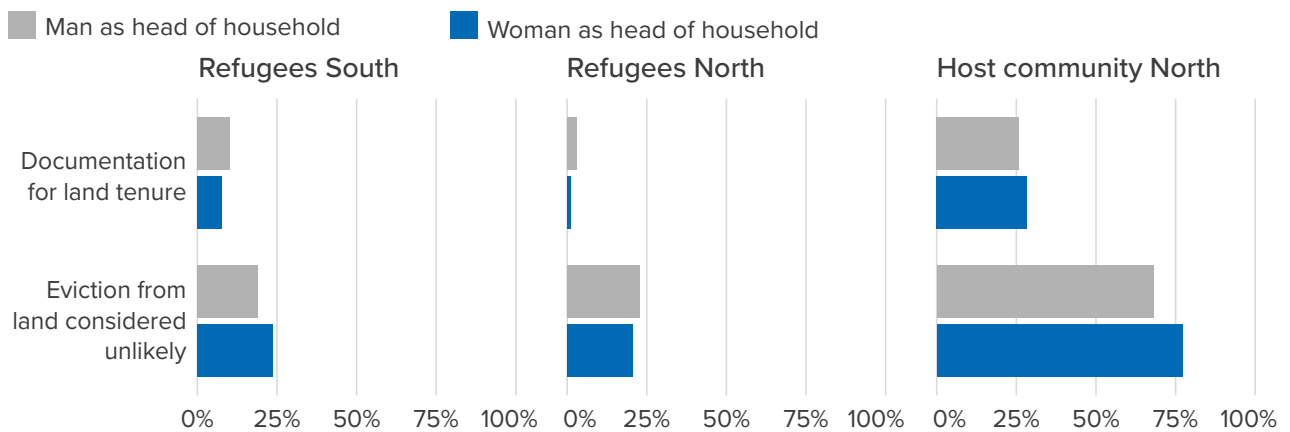
²⁹ Corresponds to SDG Indicator 1.4.2.

FIGURE 47 LAND OWNERSHIP OR USE RIGHT



Sampled population over 15

FIGURE 48 SECURE TENURE RIGHTS TO LAND



Sampled population over 15

Shocks



Shocks are events that significantly disrupt livelihoods, health, and living conditions. Half of all refugee households experienced one or more shocks in the 12 months preceding the survey. Among refugee households in the South, 73 per cent experienced a shock (or several) in the previous 12 months. In the North, 46 per cent of host community households experienced a shock, as did 42 per cent of refugee households.

Exposure to shocks is particularly high among refugees in Maban (60 per cent of households). For three-quarters of households that experienced shocks there, flooding was the cause. Flooding also affected a large part of the surrounding host community in the North (44 per cent of

households). The most common type of shock for refugees in the South was the death of a household member (30 per cent of households), followed by serious illness or accident of a household member (18 per cent).

FIGURE 49 EXPERIENCE OF AT LEAST ONE SHOCK IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

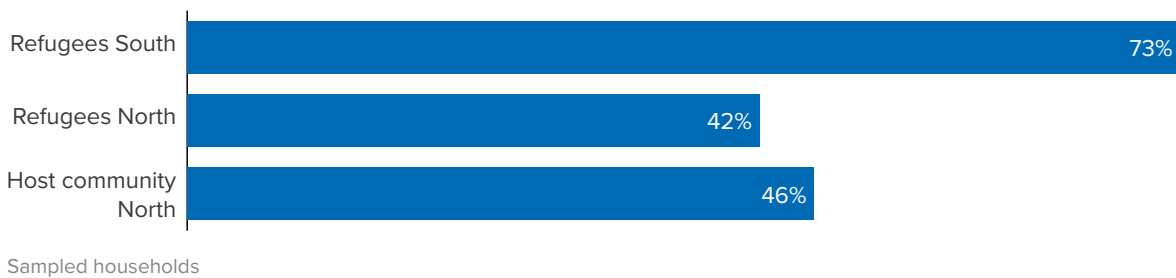
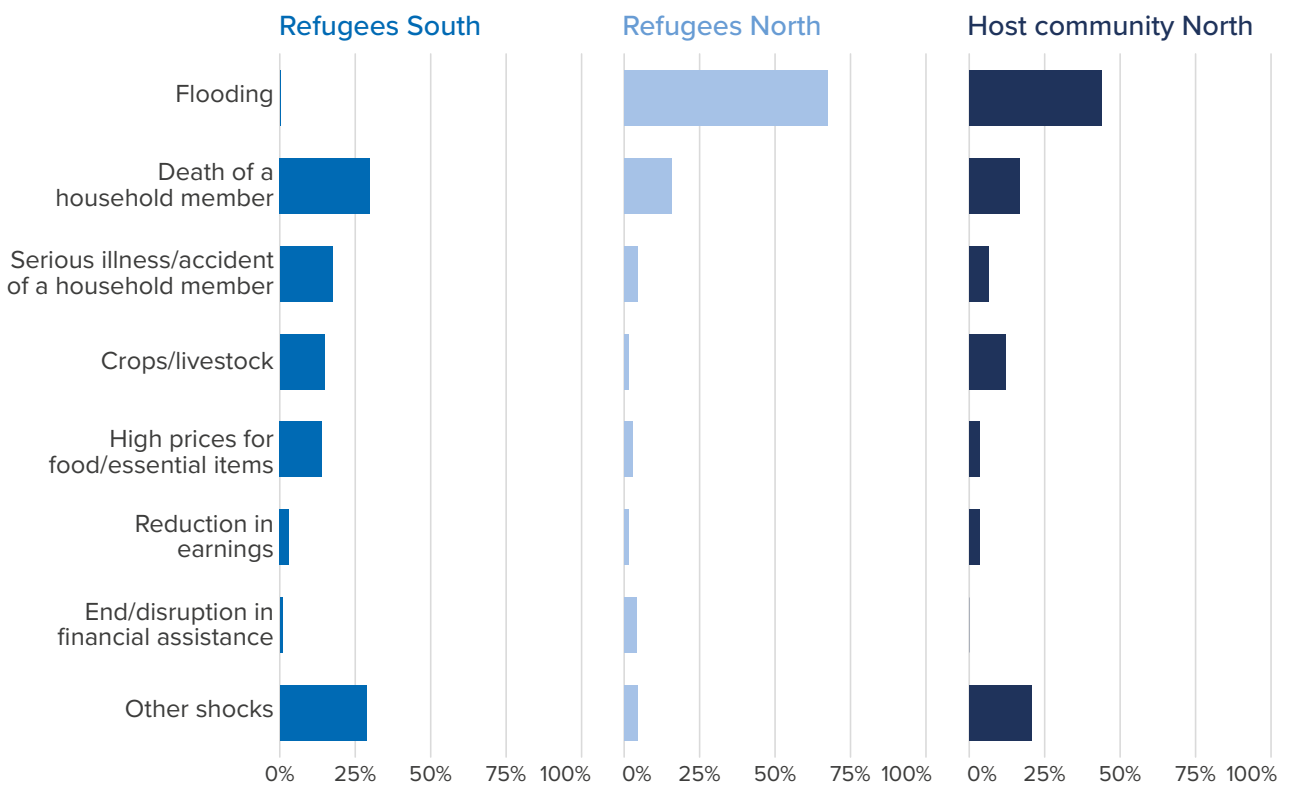


FIGURE 50 SHOCKS EXPERIENCED IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS





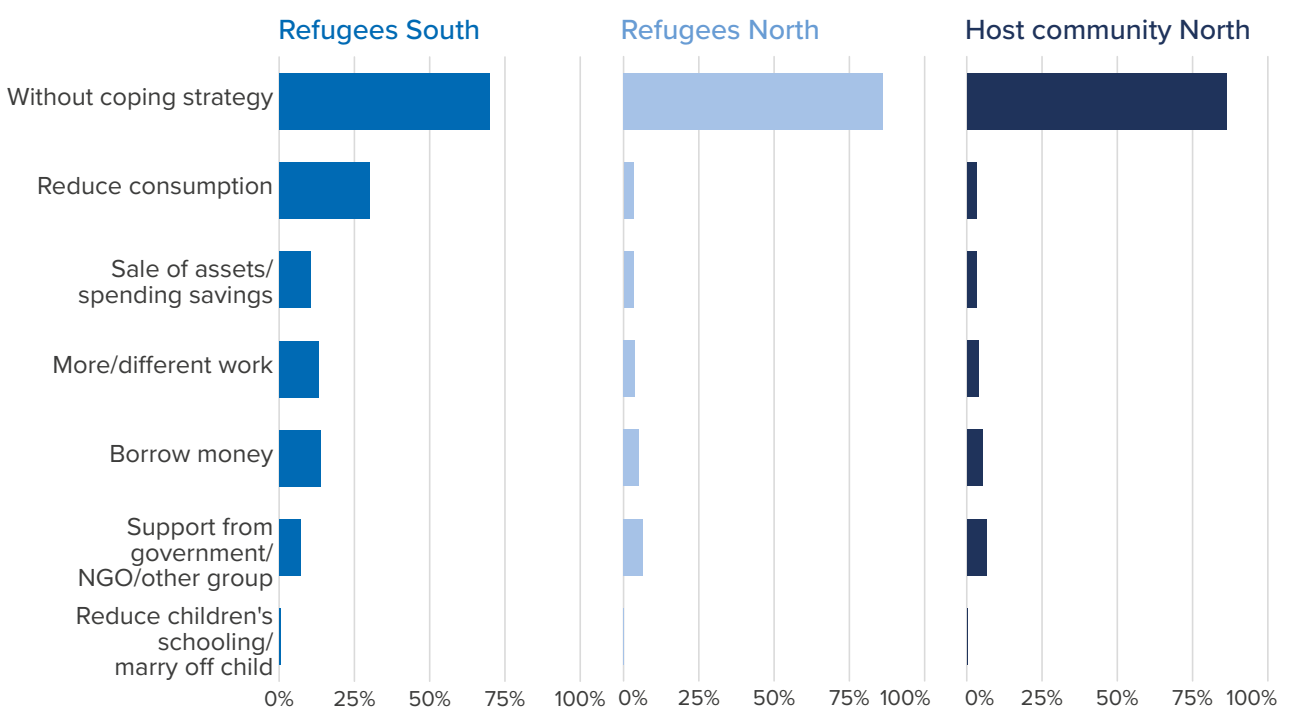
Muna is 18 and has just had her first child. She lives with her mother (Amira) and seven siblings in Maban, South Sudan where 90 per cent of refugees say that they are suffering and struggling.

© UNHCR/Melany Markham

Reducing consumption was a widespread coping strategy for refugees in the South, at 30 per cent of households that faced shocks. However, almost three-quarters of refugees in the South did not or were not able to respond to the shocks they faced. In the Northern host community, 20 per cent of households sold assets or spent their savings

in response to shocks, while 15 per cent reduced their consumption. Among refugees in the North, the share of households that faced shocks but did not or were not able to use any coping strategy is considerably higher, at 86 per cent (80 per cent among refugee households in North and South combined).

FIGURE 51 COPING STRATEGIES FOR SHOCKS IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS



Sampled households that experienced a shock in the previous 12 months. Multiple responses possible.

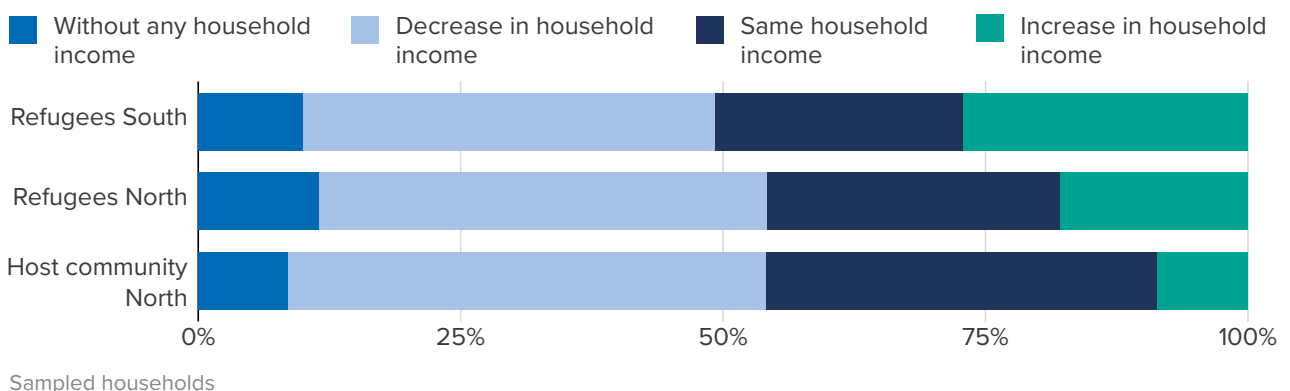
Changes to household income



Over two-fifths of refugee households (42 per cent) saw their incomes from all sources fall relative to the previous year (43 per cent among refugees in the North and 46 per cent in the host community).

During the same period, only 18 per cent of refugee and 9 per cent of host community households in the North saw their incomes increase (20 per cent of refugee households in North and South combined). A large group of refugee households (11 per cent) report not having any income at all (12 per cent among refugees in the North and 8 per cent among the host community).

FIGURE 52 CHANGES TO HOUSEHOLD PURCHASING POWER IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS



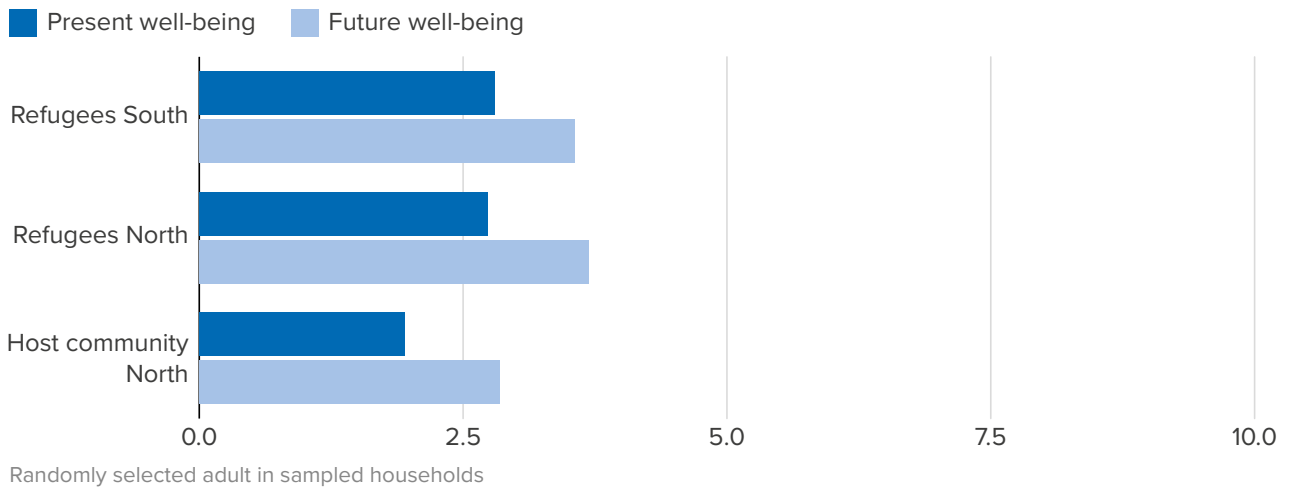
Subjective well-being



The **Cantril Ladder Scale** evaluates subjective well-being. Adults report their quality of life on a scale from 0 to 10, representing the worst to the best. The scale measures both well-being in the present and expected well-being in one year. Average subjective well-being scores are lower for adults in the host community than for refugees in the North (1.9 out of 10 among hosts compared to 2.7 out of 10 among refugees). On average, people are more positive about

their future well-being than about their current well-being. However, members of the host community in the North also rate their expected well-being in one year more pessimistically than refugees in the North (2.9 among hosts compared to 3.7 out of 10 among refugees in the North; 3.7 out of 10 for refugees overall).

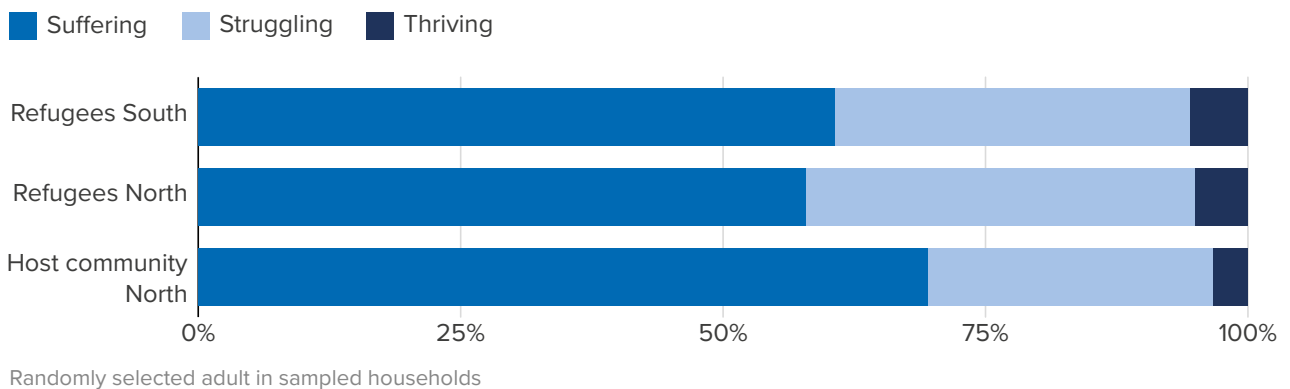
FIGURE 53 CANTRIL LADDER OF LIFE EVALUATION

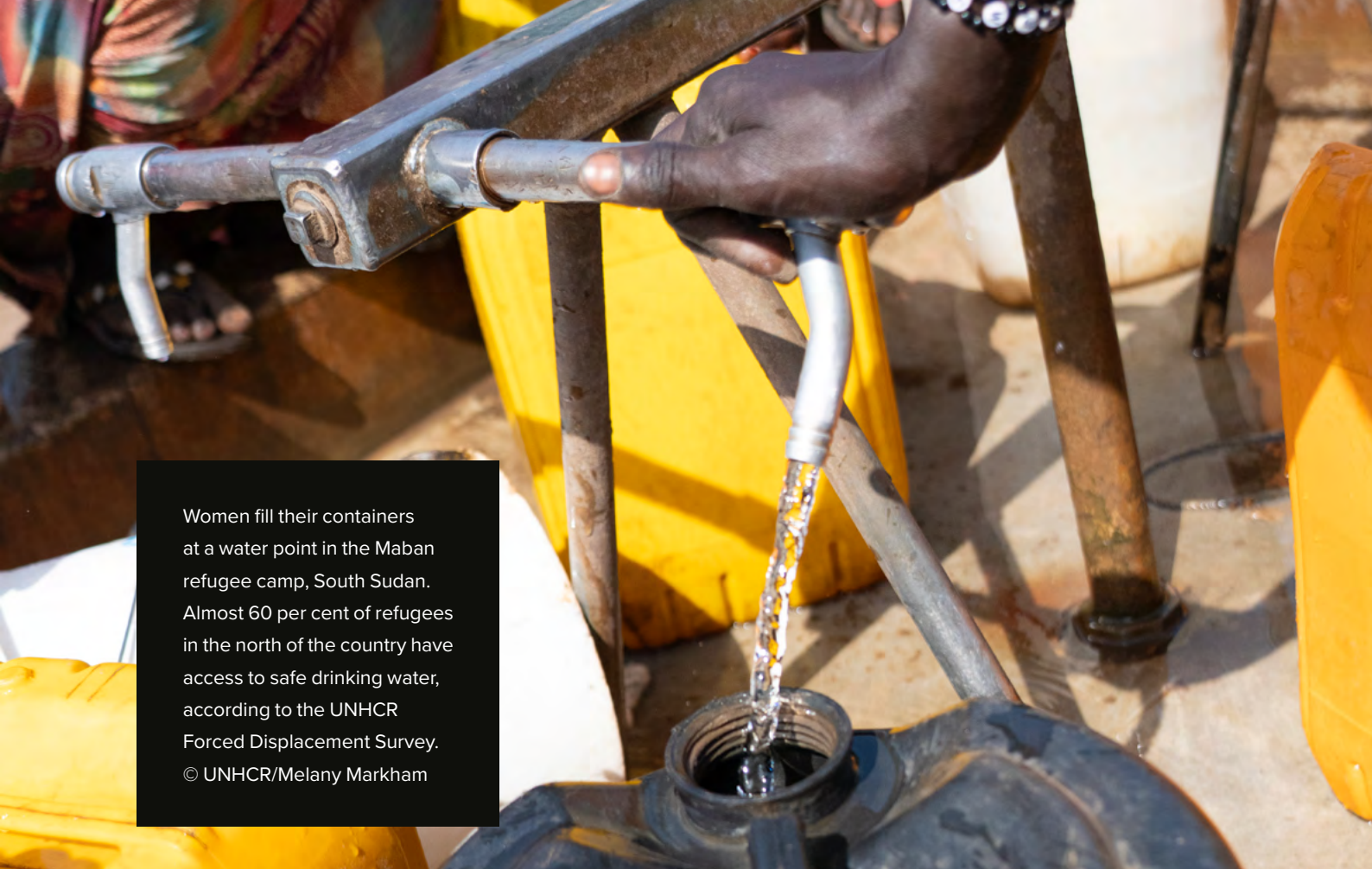


The **Life Evaluation Index** combines the current and future subjective well-being values of the Cantril Ladder to group individuals into three distinct categories: “suffering,” “struggling,” and “thriving.” Across groups, most adults are classified as suffering. The share is largest among the host

community in the North at 69 per cent, compared to 58 per cent of refugees in the North (58 per cent of refugees nationally). Only 3 per cent of the host community and 5 per cent of refugees in the North are classified as thriving (5 per cent of refugees nationally).

FIGURE 54 LIFE EVALUATION INDEX CATEGORIES





Women fill their containers at a water point in the Maban refugee camp, South Sudan. Almost 60 per cent of refugees in the north of the country have access to safe drinking water, according to the UNHCR Forced Displacement Survey. © UNHCR/Melany Markham



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This document along with further information on global displacement is available on UNHCR's statistics website: <https://www.unhcr.org/forced-displacement-survey-south-sudan-2023>.

Forced Displacement Survey

SOUTH SUDAN 2023

JULY 2024



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