

SUDAN SITUATION

5 May 2023



Alekiir with her aunt Sunday, mother Gisma, and cousin Omjuma (left to right) just arrived at the UNHCR Transit Centre in Renk town after crossing the Joda Border Point into South Sudan. 25 years old Alekiir was a computer science student at the African University in Khartoum. She first fled South Sudan with her family in 2014 due to the civil war but she never imagined that she would have to flee again. "Before everything broke out in Khartoum, I was making a lot of plans. I wanted to study biology to be a doctor to help people - that is what I was imagining. Now I do not know. As long as I am alive, I still have a chance, I still have a chance to do something."
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Operational Context

Clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have continued for 20 straight days. The general security situation in the country remains fluid with clashes still ongoing. According to the Sudanese Ministry of Health, at least 550 people have been killed and over 4,900 wounded due to the fighting.

On 2 May, the South Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation [announced](#) that SAF and RSF had agreed to peace talks and a seven-day ceasefire from 4 to 11 May. However, on the first day of the new reported ceasefire, heavy bombardment continued in Khartoum.

In El Geneina (West Darfur) where the armed conflict has taken an intercommunal dimension, a cessation of hostilities was reached between Arab and Masalit tribes.

Fighting in Sudan must stop now before the conflict and the spreading humanitarian catastrophe further ravage the country and the region, UN Secretary-General António Guterres [said](#) on 3 May while speaking to journalists in Nairobi, Kenya where he is chairing a meeting of chief executives from across the UN system. The Secretary-General addressed the Sudan situation in his [opening remarks](#) at a press conference in Nairobi.

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, [visited Port Sudan](#) on 3 May to reaffirm the UN’s commitment to address the humanitarian needs of the Sudanese people. While in Port Sudan, Mr. Griffiths and Volker Perthes, the Special Representative for the Secretary-General in Sudan, had calls with the Sudanese army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the leader of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as General Hemedti, and civil society leaders. Mr. Griffiths stressed that humanitarian aid must reach all people in need, but that strong guarantees are needed on the safety and security of aid workers and supplies. A [press briefing video](#) is also available from his visit. Following the visit of Mr. Griffiths to Port Sudan, several recommendations were raised including potentially establishing additional back offices outside the country.

On 3 May, UNHCR’s Principal Situation Coordinator in Darfur, Toby Harward, [briefed the UN press corps](#) in New York on the humanitarian situation in Sudan where he spoke about the situation in Sudan where the ceasefire has not been fully respected, and reported that UNHCR now estimates that over 100,000 refugees or returnees have fled Sudan. He further spoke about the planning figures of more than 800,000 forced to flee the country should the situation continue to deteriorate, which would require a largescale humanitarian response.

Regional Overview

- The UNHCR Operational Data Portal (ODP) now has a page for the Sudan Situation: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation>
- UNHCR Comprehensive Overview of Response to Emergencies (CORE) maps of Population Movement from Sudan are also available on the ODP: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/100372>

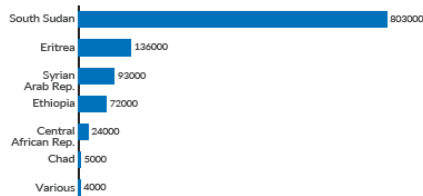
OVERVIEW: Countries neighbouring Sudan impacted by this new emergency are already hosting large refugee and internally displaced populations. The majority remain severely underfunded. Hosting countries will need additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance. Initial assessments show that the new asylum-seekers, refugees, refugee returnees and other arrivals’ most urgent needs identified to date are water, food, shelter, health, and core relief items. In terms of protection, the current priority activities are the registration of new arrivals and ensuring that mechanisms are in place to try and prevent and respond to gender-based violence and ensure alternative care services for refugee children.

Arrivals by population type

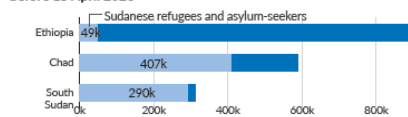


Refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan by country of origin before 15 April 2023

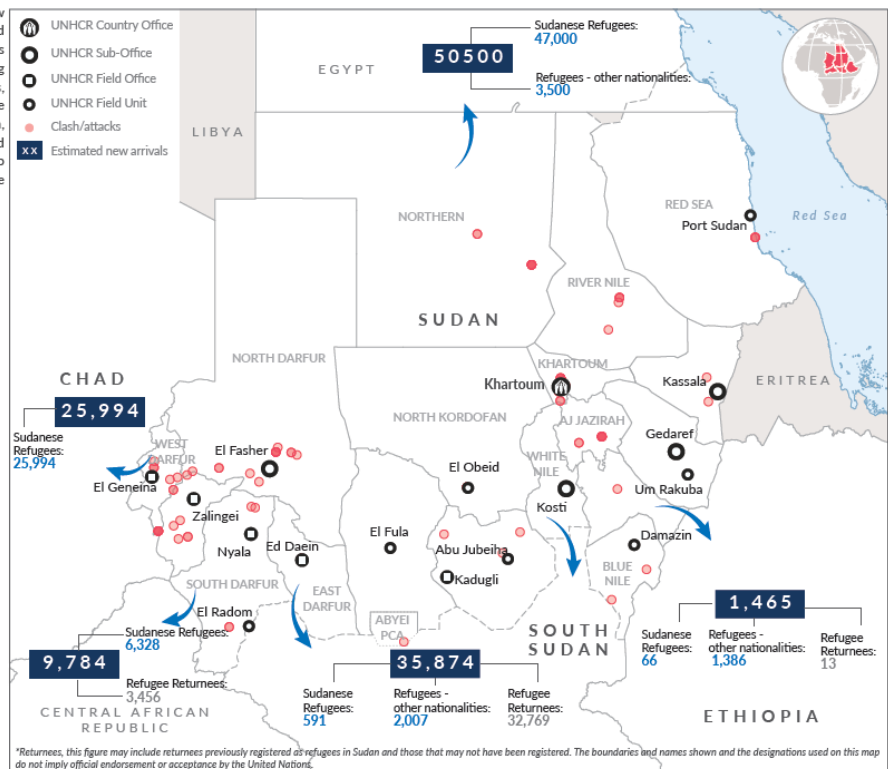
1.13 million existing refugee population in Sudan



Refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan neighboring countries before 15 April 2023



Sources: UNHCR, IOM, MFA, South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission



*Returnees: this figure may include returnees previously registered as refugees in Sudan and those that may not have been registered. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Staff safety updates

National staff in areas of Sudan affected by the fighting continue to self-relocate to safer places. Some have reached neighbouring countries, including Chad, Ethiopia and Egypt.

Protection

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) reports that there are 37,000 individuals (mostly Sudanese) in the towns of Halfa, Ashkin and Argeen along the Sudan-Egypt border as of 1 May. Given the long queues to cross the border, the journey to Egypt can take several days. The situation in Argeen has been deteriorating causing people have moved to Halfa in large numbers. Individuals in those locations have no access to accommodation, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities or dignity items. SRCS provides water and food to those they identify in need, but no other assistance is being provided.

The [HELP website for Sudan](#) is now live. The site will provide useful information to refugees and asylum-seekers seeking information or support inside Sudan. An Arabic help site will be launched soon.

Programme

The crisis response plan continues to be developed. So far, partners continue to report that implementation of activities is constrained by the limited access to cash and fuel in the country.

Supply

17 containers of UNHCR non-food items (NFIs) such as plastic tarpaulin and fabric covered warehouses arrived in Port Sudan on 2 May and are presently undergoing clearance formalities.

Updates by location

In Khartoum, the security situation in the “Open Areas” where many South Sudanese refugees live is relatively calm. Services including water provision continue. However, partners remain unable to access the areas due to the overall situation in Khartoum. Health support is a challenge as the health partners, Al Manar Organization, is currently not operational. Reports were also received on the movement of South Sudanese refugees to Kosti and other urban refugees to eastern Sudan.

In North Darfur, UNHCR continues the process of moving non-food items (NFIs) from the El Fasher warehouse to another warehouse in the Wali (Governor)’s compound for greater security. UNHCR is working with the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and the Darfur Governor’s office in planning for the distribution of the NFIs.

In West Darfur, the situation in El Geneina remains tense with concerns about reported mobilization of Arab and Masalit tribes, despite a cessation of hostility agreed at the intercommunal level.

In South Darfur, the general security situation is calm with sporadic shooting and increasing criminality reported within the city. Civilians are growing concerned about the involvement of the Central Reserve Police (CRP) in the fighting between SAF and RSF elsewhere, given the CRP’s heavy presence in the state.

In East Darfur, the security situation remains calm but unpredictable. Internet connectivity is unreliable in Ed Daein. Prices of commodities including fuel have increased due to scarcity of goods. UNHCR continues to conduct protection monitoring through the community-based protection networks. Essential services including health and WASH continue to run in the refugee camps and settlements. WASH partner, Water and Environmental Sanitation, will be engaged to look into finding solutions for insufficient water supply reported in Abu Karinka refugee settlement.

Several cases of gender-based violence were reported in Kario and Al Nimir camps. The protection partner World Vision International (WVI) is following up to support the cases. One survivor was able to receive medical assistance. However, the other cases are currently unable to receive psychosocial support due to the current security situation.

In West Kordofan, the situation is calm but complaints were received from refugees in the settlements due to the lack of food.

In North Kordofan, the situation is relatively calm. Shortage of commodities and rising prices continue to be reported, including the shortage of medical supplies. Prior to the outbreak of conflict, WFP conducted food distribution for March-April in Um Rawaba and Al Rahad localities. However, the provision of cash (WFP cash-based transfer) in El Obeid locality did not take place due to the conflict.

In South Kordofan, the situation is calm. UNHCR is working with WFP to plan the distribution of food in Abu Jubayhah and Al Sirajiya settlement. The prevailing security situation has impacted the health referral system in the refugee settlements. In two reported instances, medical cases reached El Obeid Hospital but did not receive treatment due to lack of facilities, and as a result were made to return to Abu Jubayhah. Health partner Al Manar will follow up on the cases.

In White Nile State, UNHCR is waiting for security clearance to begin verification of the new arrivals in the camps. Nevertheless, partners continue to be present in the camps with essential services operational. UNHCR, HAC, and other humanitarian actors in the state met the Wali who committed to support the humanitarian response in the state and further committed to provide logistical support and arrangements for fuel for partners and suppliers.

During the first day of a verification exercise of arrivals in Rabak town, 326 individuals from 69 households were recorded. Only 18 individuals from seven families were found to be refugees registered in Khartoum. Over 90 per cent of the individuals in this group indicated their intention to return to South Sudan, while only 10 per cent indicated they intend to stay in Sudan (9% in White Nile and 1% relocate to El Obeid in North Kordofan). Therefore, most of the individuals are understood to be in transit to South Sudan, with those remaining in the bus terminals unable to afford the transport fees to the Joda border crossing and onward to South Sudan.

In Blue Nile State, the situation remains quiet and local authorities continued to assure humanitarian agencies that they will be granted authorizations to continue operating in the state. However, UNHCR is still facing constraints in resuming field missions and accessing the camp due to the need for security clearance. Nevertheless, all partners have resumed activities as of 1 May and are fully operational.

UNHCR partner Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) distributed dignity kits to 818 refugee women and girls of reproductive age in Camp 6.

A damaged water pipeline was repaired and 17 tukuls, which had been damaged during the recent heavy rains and strong winds, were assessed. In coordination with UNHCR, ACTED will provide plastic sheets and support refugees to rehabilitate their shelters.

Following home visits, four persons with disability have been identified and arrangements are being made to provide them with assistive devices. Local partner Mutawinat visited the courts and prison in Damazine to identify any refugees who may have been detained in the last three weeks. However, the court was not in session due to the absence of the judge.

Education partner Windle Trust International (WTI) reported that schools have opened and are fully operational from 30 April. UNHCR also met World Relief Sudan to discuss resuming work on the rehabilitation of the transit centre for refugee returnees and the construction of a humanitarian hub in Kurmuk. The implementation of the community support projects in returnee localities of Kurmuk and Baw were also discussed.

In Gedaref, the registration and verification of refugees and asylum-seekers continues in Um Gulja (a former refugee settlement site to which people have moved from Khartoum and other cities). So far, a total of 1,925 individuals comprised of 983 Ethiopians (662 refugees and 321 asylum-seekers), 932 Eritreans (396 refugees and 536 asylum-seekers) and 10 Sudanese IDPs have been verified and registered. Of this number, over 35 per cent (684) are children; about 33 percent (633) women; and more than 31 per cent (608) men. Over 32 per cent (629 individuals) are single households.

An additional 22 individuals were reported to have spontaneously arrived at Um Rakuba from Khartoum and other areas, bringing the total number to 65. In Tunaydbah, 489 refugees and asylum-seekers have spontaneously arrived from Khartoum and 53 from Damazine.

In addition, UNHCR has received reports that 168 individuals have arrived in Um Gargour. A UNHCR team will go on mission to Um Gargour to distribute multipurpose cash assistance to former peacekeepers and will also use this opportunity to assess the situation of the new arrivals.

UNHCR's legal aid partner Mutawinat reported that refugees in Khartoum face a life-threatening situation without any assistance such as food and are unable to pay the extremely high transport costs (between SDG 20,000 to 50,000 per person) to get out of Khartoum.

In Kassala, the Refugee Working Group met on 3 May and noted priority needs including shelter to accommodate increasing numbers of arrivals, lack of funding for sanitation and hygiene posing health risks, and partner presence on the ground affected by the lack of fuel and cash. WFP has confirmed that food distribution would start on 5 May.

As a follow-up action in response to concerns raised during the consultation with refugees in Wad Sherife camp, UNHCR team conducted a monitoring visit to health facilities to assess their capacity to respond to arising needs. It was noted that there is an existing medical stock, however with a gap in medication for chronic illnesses, and challenges in facilitating referrals, inadequate capacity to effectively follow up on all clients, and inadequate support for malnutrition, among others. UNHCR continues supporting the MoH to strengthen primary health response in the camps.

The prices of commodities continue to skyrocket in the camps which has a profound impact on the community's nutrition status and social wellbeing. There is a shortage of sugar, wheat flour and cooking oil and, as a result, the prices of these commodities have doubled.

UNHCR volunteers and community structures continue supporting referrals to functional service points, disseminating information on protection, risks of trafficking, access to asylum and service availability.

In Hamdayet, the situation is calm, with the border remaining closed on both sides. No new arrivals have been recorded entering through Hamdayet and no return movements have been observed yet. Similarly in Village 8, no movements have been reported across the border area.

At the Gallabat border crossing point, it was reported that some Ethiopians who used to live in Khartoum have crossed back into their country through the official route as they have their passports.

At the Taya border crossing point, an estimated 60 Ethiopians were reported to have crossed back through unofficial routes.

SOUTH SUDAN

In South Sudan, the current system for support is prioritized around border/entry points with the majority of arrivals at the border being South Sudanese refugee returnees. The main priority of the response is to facilitate the onward movement of returnees and refugees arriving to South Sudan's borders to avoid congestion of people at the border areas that are extremely remote, with limited access and minimal infrastructure.

Juba

Joint Response Plan: On behalf of UNHCR and IOM, OCHA organized the launch of the *South Sudan Response Plan for the Crisis in Sudan – Refugees, South Sudanese Returnees and Third-Country Nationals – May to October 2023*, which was presented to government partners, donors and UN agencies.

Maban (Upper Nile) [Renk and Paloich]

Renk

New arrivals: As of 3 May, 509 households/2,909 individuals (2,791 South Sudanese, 46 Eritreans, 44 Sudanese, 1 Congolese) arrived at the Joda border point and were registered by UNHCR and its partner, Humanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC). Cumulatively, 29,353 individuals have arrived and been recorded at the Joda border point.

Coordination: A coordination meeting was held on 4 May among UN agencies, partners, and the Government. The coordination structures were clarified during the meeting. Several INGOs, including NRC, Oxfam, World Vision, and Solidarité arrived in Renk to conduct various assessments. A meeting was held between IOM, UNHCR, and the South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) to resolve the issue of vulnerability screening and manifests for RRC transport from the border to the Transit Centre. A meeting was held with the local police, requesting support to control crowds and security at the Transit Centre.

Asylum-Seekers: UNHCR conducted an exercise at the Transit Centre to register asylum-seekers ready to go to the refugee camps in Maban. So far, 60 households/144 individuals expressed their willingness to go to Maban. The exercise will continue in the coming days.

Border response in Renk

Public Health: As of 2 May, a total of 1,137 consultations have been conducted across the two clinics. Moreover, 17 urgent medical cases have been referred to Renk County Hospital.

Child Protection: UNHCR implementing partners are providing child protection services through case identification, documentation, and referral. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) are also actively conducting community engagement activities and providing psychosocial support to vulnerable children. Play items have been delivered to the site and child-friendly activities have been launched.

Paloich

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers: On 3 May, UNHCR and CRA screened 248 households (HH)/394 individuals among refugees and asylum-seekers in Paloich airport and surrounding Payams. The large majority consist of Eritreans (229 HH/370 individuals), followed by Sudanese (17 HH/22 individuals), and others (2 HH/2 individuals).

Over the past days UNHCR has identified 454 households/792 individuals, who have all expressed interest in moving to the Maban refugee camps. UNHCR, in collaboration with CRA and partners, started transporting them to Maban on 4 May. They will be hosted initially at the Doro camp distribution site, which will temporarily serve as reception center.

Due to the large number of refugees with serious medical conditions, an ambulance and medical staff from Relief International will accompany the bus during the travel from Paloich to Maban. All refugees will undergo biometric registration and health screening upon arrival before receiving NFIs and hot meals.

Profiling of Eritrean arrivals: UNHCR conducted a more detailed interview with several Eritrean households. A total of eight households held refugee identity cards and had been registered in Shagarab refugee camp in Kassala. Another group of eight households explained that they had pending resettlement cases – some in the final stages had only been waiting for their flights to be arranged. UNHCR is working to verify the resettlement status of these cases and ensure follow-up with the concerned resettlement countries as relevant. Two women in the group are likely to deliver within the next two weeks, while several refugees suffer from critical or chronic medical conditions.

Malakal (Upper Nile)

157 households/936 individuals arrived at Melut, Fashoda, Ulang, Nasir, Maiwut, Longechuk counties and Malakal town according to UNHCR partners HDC, ADRA and DRC reports. Returnees used commercial boats, trucks, and tractors during their trip.

Arrivals at Mellit: 12 households/88 individuals (14 males, 20 females, 27 boys and 27 girls) arrived at Mellut through Juda/Renk border point. According to UNHCR's partner HDC, the returnees intended to integrate with the community in Mellut as they are originally from this area.

Arrivals at Kodok/Fashoda: 5 households/26 individuals (8 females, 6 boys and 12 girls) arrived at Kodok through Magenis (Manyo County), Aburoc and Kalagany (Fashoda County) border points. According to UNHCR's partner HDC, the returnees intended to stay in Kodok (Fashoda County) as they are originally from Fashoda.

Arrivals at the east Sobat Corridor counties: UNHCR's partner ADRA reported the arrival of 80 households/522 individuals (214 male, 308 female) to the east Sobat Corridor counties through Juda/Renk border point (below).

According to ADRA, returnees reported hardship and protection issues such as detention, sexual violence, robbing at check points, shortage of food, etc. during their journey in Sudan. These returnees are originally from these following counties where they intend to remain:

- Arrivals at Ulang: 38 households/268 Individuals (115 male and 153 female).
- Arrivals at Nasir: 5 households/26 Individuals (10 male and 16 female).
- Arrivals at Maiwut: 13 households/84 Individuals (26 male and 58 female).
- Arrivals at Longechuk: 24 households/144 Individuals (63 male and 81 female).
- Arrivals at Malakal: UNHCR partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) reported arrival of 60 households/300 individuals to Malakal on 4 May.

Wau (Northern Bahr el Ghazal | Abyei Administrative Area)

Abyei Administrative Area

Two households/five individual returnees (5 male, 1 female) arrived at the Amieth border point from Omdurman. One family intend to travel to Wau and the other intend to travel to Juba as their final destination.

UNHCR's partner, HCO is conducting protection needs assessment and intentions of the Eritreans at Ameith border. The preliminary report indicates that many of them had recognized refugee and asylum status in Sudan. They intend to travel to Juba. A UNHCR team from Wau and Juba will travel to Abyei next week to support the partner in carrying out protection needs assessment and intentions of new arrivals in Abyei.

Northern Bahr El Ghazal State (NBeG)

Seven households/31 individuals arrived in NBeG as follows:

- Majokyithio: Three households/12 individual returnees (7 male, 5 female) arrived at Majokyithio in Aweil East from Merem and Muglad. They are from Aweil and intend to settle in Aweil town. One household/five individual Sudanese (3 male, 2 female) arrived at Majok Yithiu border point in Aweil East from Northern Kordofan. They intend to stay in Aweil town.
- Gokmachar-Kiir Adem: Two households/Nine (South Sudanese) individual returnees (3 male, 6 female) arrived at Gokmachar-Kiir Adem border – Aweil East crossing point from Western Darfur. The intention is to settle in Aweil and Wau.
- Warawar: One household/five individuals (2 male, 3 female) returnees arrived at Warawar (informal border) in Aweil East from Merem and Muglad. They are from Aweil and intend to stay in Aweil town.

WFP will provide warehouse facilities as well as some food and nutrition assistance to new arrivals.

CHAD

Since the beginning of the crisis, at least 30,000 refugees have arrived from Sudan to the provinces of Ouaddai, Sila, and Wadi Fira. New arrivals continue to be reported daily.

Protection

Protection and border monitoring continue in the various locations. As part of the interagency protection monitoring system Project 21, a total 291 households were interviewed as of 4 May with the following outcome:

- 91% did not encounter difficulties in accessing the country of asylum;
- 45% have family members that are still in Sudan and would join them when the situation allows;
- 53% expressed no intention to return to Sudan in the next month even if the situation improves.

Registration

A total of 25,994 refugees have been counted and received protection services, mainly settled in Ouaddai, Sila and Wadi-Fira. Of these, a total of 7,880 individuals have been pre-registered. Biometric registration was launched in Dize Berte to prevent double counting and reduce the risk of fraud.

Core relief Items (CRIs)

A large stock of items is being shipped to the East from UNHCR warehouses in Ndjama and Douala to meet urgent needs of refugees.

Between 2 and 4 May, over 1,600 refugee households in Midjiguita and Goungour received UNHCR kits consisting of tarpaulins, soap, and jerry cans. This brought the total of refugee households that received CRIs distributed by UNHCR and UNICEF to nearly 5,000 since the beginning of the emergency.

Food Distribution

As of 4 May, 13,366 new refugees have received food from WFP. The ration consists of sorghum, legumes, oil, supplementary food CSB++ and salt.

Health

UNHCR partners PU, IRC, and MSF continue to provide health assistance in Koufroune and Midjiguita. Mental health and psychosocial support was provided to 97 persons and awareness raising sessions reached about 600 persons so far. Over 4,500 medical consultations were conducted; 342 women received reproductive healthcare services (21 deliveries assisted by health personnel); nutrition screening was provided to 677 children and 374 pregnant and/or breastfeeding women. Additionally, as of 2 May, 1,027 children have been vaccinated against measles and dewormed.

WASH

Provision of water by IRC continues to supply the refugee population of Koufroune and Midjiguita with drinking water through water trucking with a capacity of 40 cubic meters. In Koufroune LMI has installed two 5,000-liter tanks for water storage, and UNHCR provided a pick-up truck with two 1,500-liter tanks to reinforce water trucking at the Dize Berte and Labandafak. Construction of emergency latrines by CARE International continues in Koufroune and Midjiguita.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Current situation

Since clashes broke out in Sudan, on 15 April 2023, the Central African authorities and the humanitarian community in CAR have been following closely the developments in the tri-border area between CAR, Sudan and Chad. As of 4 May, over 6,200 Sudanese refugees and about 3,500 Central African refugees who lived in Sudan have arrived in Am-Dafock, a small village in the Vekaga Prefecture bordering Sudan.

Logistical challenges are significant, given the remoteness of the Vakaga prefecture. Birao is the main town in the area, and it is located about 60 km from Am-Dafock. Its market depends almost exclusively on merchandise and produce coming from Sudan, and disruption in the supply chain has caused a rise in price of basic commodities. During the dry season transportation of goods by road can take over a month to reach the destination, while during the rainy season, which is impending, roads are impassable and Am-Dafock is completely isolated.

UNHCR and partners are preparing a coordinated response for the potential arrival of 25,000 individuals (10,000 Sudanese refugees and 15,000 CAR returnees), for which USD 35 million will be required.

Response

A high-level mission took place in Am-Dafock on 4 May, to assess the situation and better plan the way forward.

On 29 April, a UNHCR and National Commission for Refugees (CNR) emergency team, together with NGOs based in the area, conducted a rapid assessment in the affected areas and the main identified needs were protection, access to shelter, food, health services, water, and basic core relief items.

UNHCR is preparing to conduct protection monitoring with the support of 50 community outreach workers and supporting CNR to identify five staff who will work on data collection and data entry.

Gender-based violence (GBV) activities are being coordinated and a listening centre is being established in Am-Dafock based on the *ManBI SI model* ("Listen to me" in sango), where GBV survivors will receive psychosocial, medical and material support. Sexual exploitation and abuse prevention measures are being developed.

To expedite the delivery of humanitarian supplies, an airlift was conducted on 3 May, while additional items are on route by road. So far, the following items were shipped to Birao by road, and airlift:

- 1,155 core relief items kits – including flees blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, plastic buckets, mosquito nets, tarpaulin;
- 8,000 litres of fuel;
- 1 generator;
- 1 rub hall;
- furniture, such as plastic tables and chairs.

A relocation site for those currently at the border is yet to be identified in collaboration with the Government.

ETHIOPIA

Population movements

A total of 1,283 refugees and Ethiopian returnees were identified after having arrived in Ethiopia between 28 April and 4 May, bringing the cumulative number of people with protection considerations to 1,465. Of the new arrivals and returnees, 1,283 crossed through the Metema border point in Amhara region, while 182 entered via the Kurmuk border point in the Benishangul-Gumuz region.

Screening is ongoing in both Metema and Kurmuk, with 1,339 having been verified as Eritrean refugees registered in Sudan, 45 South Sudanese refugees registered in Sudan, 66 Sudanese asylum-seekers and 13 Ethiopian refugee returnees. Two Afghan nationals are also among the newly registered asylum-seekers.

During a joint UNHCR-WFP visit to Metema on 1 May, the new arrivals highlighted food, shelter, medical services, clothes and dignity kits as some of the most urgent needs. The team updated them on the ongoing work to relocate them away from the border, where they would have better access to services.

Access to border areas

Both Kurmuk and Metema crossing points remain open. Some refugees have shared that movement within Sudan is difficult, especially near border areas.

Protection

A protection and information desk has been set up at the Metema border to provide protection counselling, identify people with special needs and disseminate awareness messages. To strengthen participation, the community has selected four representatives, including two females, to support with the work of the help desk, including with interpretation. The selected volunteers were trained on protection principles.

Several women who survived sexual assaults before their arrival in Metema were provided with psychosocial and medical support by the emergency medical team. UNHCR provided them with dignity kits. There is an urgent need to deploy a case worker and follow up with partner Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC) is underway, while a UNHCR gender-based violence (GBV)/prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) expert is already present on the ground.

Health response

In Metema, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and the Ethiopian Ministry of Health (MoH) continue to provide emergency healthcare, including referrals. On 1 May, four refugees and asylum-seekers were referred to Gondar hospital for treatment. One family with baby with specific needs was also referred to Addis Ababa for more advanced treatment.

The Ethiopian Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) has deployed a medical doctor to Kurmuk to assess the medical situation of the new arrivals. An ambulance, fuel, a refrigerator, and expansion of the working space are urgently required to strengthen the health response.

Food, water and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

In Metema, WFP has indicated they will preposition one metric ton of food to the new transit site in the coming days and install a rub hall. UNHCR delivered an assortment of CRIs, including 850 plastic buckets, 4,100 laundry soap and 355 mosquito nets. Distribution starts on 3 May in coordination with RRS and the volunteers selected by the new arrivals.

UNHCR has been providing food and water to refugees and asylum-seekers at the Kurmuk border, catering from a nearby small restaurant. However, given the increasing numbers, discussions are ongoing with GOAL Ethiopia for alternative arrangements given capacity constraints.

Shelter and WASH

In Kurmuk, Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) has been installing tents to shelter the additional arrivals, putting up five of the planned 15 tents as of 2 May. ANE will also install communal hangars with partitions at the new transit site in Metema provided by the authorities. The site, which is six kilometers away from the border, has the capacity to accommodate 1,120 individuals, including provisions for kitchens and water and sanitation facilities. Construction of a Protection and Registration Desk has already started.

Together with Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (HIS), UNHCR has identified a site within the designated transit center to construct one block of latrine for the planned four communal hangars. Excavation were to commence on 3 May with a planned completion date of 5 May.

RRS, UNHCR and the Disaster Risk Management Office (DRMO) visited the two other sites in Metema to be able to determine their suitability to be developed to accommodate additional refugees.

Contingency planning and preparedness

Regular inter-agency meetings are being organized in both regions on the response plan and preparedness activities. Discussions are ongoing between UNHCR and IOM to strengthen coordination around the reporting of the figures of new arrivals.

EGYPT

According to figures as of 4 May from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), more than 56,000 persons have crossed into Egypt, including 52,500 Sudanese and 3,950 third country nationals.

A UNHCR-led inter-agency team completed its first mission to the border yesterday to assess the situation at the two largest official border crossings between Sudan and Egypt – Arqeen and Qustal.

The teams identified urgent humanitarian and protection concerns in the area between the two border crossing points of Ashkeet and Qustul, a crossing point in proximity to the Egyptian Consulate at Wadi Halfa from where Egyptian visas are issued, on the Sudan side and in no-man's land. 5,000 people reportedly sleeping on open ground in Wadi Halfa. The situation is reportedly calm in Arqeen.

There are reports of people stranded between borders for up to six days with limited access to food, water, and sanitation. There is an urgent need to support the affected population through Egyptian Red crescent (ERC) on the Egyptian side and there are medical needs reported on the Sudanese side beyond Ashkeet, coupled with a sharp increase in the price of essential goods.

Most arrivals are women and children (about 70%) who appear very tired and dehydrated. No visible physical injuries were seen. Some had difficulty walking as their legs were swollen due to extended periods sitting down.

The UNHCR Representative to Egypt will accompany the MFA on its mission to the southern borders this weekend.

The UN's immediate response, as reported by the Resident Coordinator on 2 May, has so far included the provision of 10 metric tons of date bars (WFP), a quarter million water bottles (IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF), more than 50,000 hygiene, sanitary and dignity kits (IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO) and hardware including two drinking water tanks (2,000 liter capacity), two vaccine refrigerators, 45 mobile toilets, 62 wheelchairs, 100 waste collection containers as well as mobilizing three sewage trucks (IOM, UNICEF, WHO).

Moreover, 30 tons of medical consumables and 600,000 pieces of personal protective equipment have been delivered to the Ministry of Health and Population (WHO). Furthermore, IOM is assisting Third Country Nationals as requested by various Embassies with already 57 persons supported. UNHCR has witnessed a 61 per cent increase in registration appointments from pre-emergency to present in Cairo and is currently assessing how to increase reception and registration capacity in Cairo.

UNHCR Budget and Funding

Key figures



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INTER-AGENCY PARTNERS

860,000

REFUGEES AND RETURNEES
PROJECTED BY OCTOBER 2023

\$445 million

TOTAL INTER-AGENCY
REQUIREMENTS

In support of

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
CHAD
EGYPT
ETHIOPIA
SOUTH SUDAN

* Partners are counted as unique for each country if they participate in the response in different countries.

Regional budget summary per country (in US dollars)

CAR	Chad	Egypt	Ethiopia	South Sudan	Total Budget
\$34.5M	\$129.8M	\$107.6M	\$76.9M	\$96.1M	\$445M

UNHCR and partners are issuing an inter-agency **Sudan Refugee Response Plan** next week, which will include country level needs in the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.

The planning covers an outflow of some **860,000 refugees and returnees from Sudan** and will require **USD 445 million** to support the displaced from May until October 2023.

- [UNHCR Press Release, 4 May: Sudan refugee response will need \\$445 million for rising numbers fleeing Sudan](#)
- [Sudan Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan – Preliminary Summary & Inter-Agency Requirements \(May-October 2023\)](#)

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