SUDAN SITUATION

25 – 31 July 2023

When there are no boats arriving to move them onward, returnees take shelter under the roof of the registration desk. Malakal Reception Site, Upper Nile State of South Sudan. © UNHCR/Sarah Jane Velasco

Highlights

The deadly clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that started in Sudan on 15 April 2023 have continued for 107 days as of 31 July.

Four months into the conflict, OCHA reports that the River Nile State in Sudan hosts the largest number of displaced people, about 16.4 per cent; more than 80 per cent of hospitals in the country are out of service; and humanitarian partners have only received 23.5 per cent of the funding required this year.

Heavy rains have impacted the onward movement of returnees in South Sudan. UNHCR's Representative in South Sudan shared that a convoy bringing people from Abyei to Aweil was delayed but that they have since all reached safety in the new Wedweil refugee settlement.

On 28 July, the US Ambassador to Sudan commended the collaborative, inclusive effort of over 75 civilian organizations and initiatives to declare a set of agreed principles to end the war and achieve civil democratic transition.

SUDAN EMERGENCY

Population Movement from Sudan

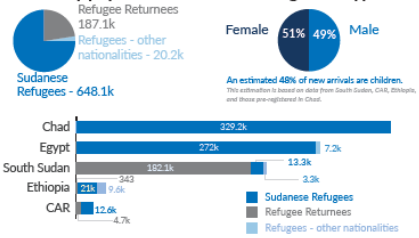
as of 31 Jul 2023

OVERVIEW: There are now an estimated 3.54 million forcibly displaced due to the recent outbreak of conflict in Sudan, including 2,686,434 internally and 855,396 in neighbouring countries. Sudan was already hosting large refugee populations before being impacted by this new emergency. Sudan and hosting countries need additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance. 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, relocation away from border areas, identification of specially vulnerable families and persons with specific needs, and putting mechanisms in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and ensure alternative care services for unaccompanied refugee children.

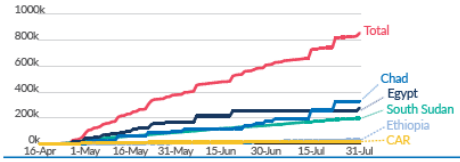
855,396
Estimated newly arrived individuals

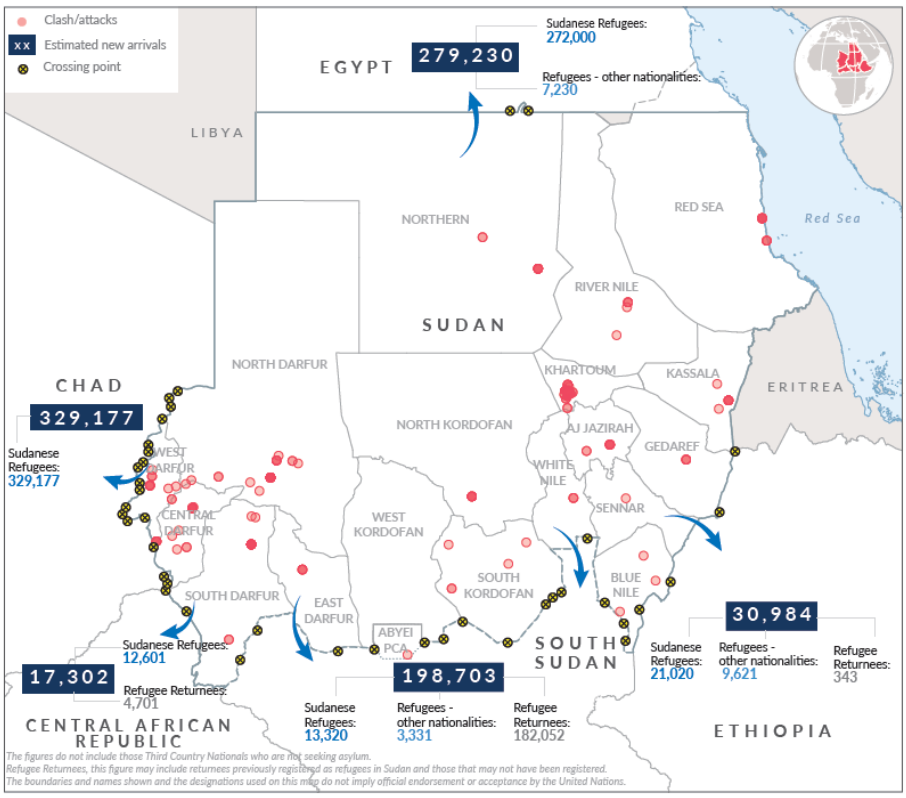
668,300
Total newly arrived refugees/asylum-seekers

Arrivals by population and estimated gender type



New arrivals from Sudan





Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- In White Nile State, missions to camps have been halted temporarily due to the security situation, delaying planned activities.
- Continued clashes and random shooting in South, West, and Central Darfur continue to affect the protection of civilians and causing displacement, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees.
- Armed groups in Sirba in West Darfur are reportedly preventing residents from fleeing to Chad. Disappearances have been reported in South Darfur, including in Beliel settlement, where nine unaccompanied minors have been reported missing, raising concerns over forced recruitment of youth.
- Several security and protection incidents have been reported this month from some settlements in West Kordofan, including killing, theft, assault, and looting.
- In the West Nile State, strong winds affecting the Ali El Karrar basic school in Rabak town resulted in destruction of the roofs of eight classrooms and causing injuries to four IDP children.
- In Gedaref, 50 Ethiopian refugees, who fled Khartoum following the outbreak of conflict, have left the camp to return to Ethiopia through the Gallabat/Metema border point.
- A large group of mostly Sudanese adult men have arrived in Port Sudan after allegedly being deported from the Halayeb area by Egyptian authorities.
- In the Blue Nile State, in a response to the reported measles outbreak in Wad al Mahi locality, WHO reported that measles has also affected Damazine and Geissan. Vaccinations and awareness raising are ongoing in Wad Al Mahi and Damazine.

Updates by Location

Darfur

Continued clashes and random shooting in South, West, and Central Darfur and random continues to affect the protection of civilians and causing displacement, including IDPs and refugees seeking safety (IDPs from North and South Darfur have moved to East Darfur; and South Sudanese refugees from East Darfur have moved to North Darfur).

Armed groups have attacked Sirba town in West Darfur and are reportedly preventing residents from fleeing to Chad.

Access to farmlands varies per states and per locality, with restrictions reported in Central Darfur and El Fasher rural. Lack of food may cause other populations to relocate to rural areas or increase in criminal activities.

UN agencies and NGOs in West and Central Darfur continue to update emergency shelter and non-food items (NFI) stocks and plans for the Chad cross-border operations. They will also be developing guidance for partners engaged in the cross-border response on needs assessments, targeted versus blanket distributions, conflict-sensitive targeting criteria, selection and preparation of distribution sites, mitigation of aid diversion and protection/ gender-based violence (GBV) risks.

In North Darfur, UNHCR have completed the distribution of NFI assistance to 5,611 households (22,378 individuals), including new IDPs in El Fasher, El Fasher Rural and protracted IDPs in Zamzam camp and the host community in Golgi.

Also in North Darfur, South Sudanese refugees in Al Lait settlements remain in dire conditions due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and no access to income-generating activities. Malnutrition remains a concern as WFP cannot resume food distribution until September at the earliest.

In North and Central Darfur, arbitrary arrest and illegal detention have been reported allegedly targeting youth.

Disappearances have been reported in South Darfur, including in Beliel settlement, where nine unaccompanied minors (11-14 years old) have been reported missing, raising concerns over forced recruitment of youth.

Due to violence in East Darfur, some 500 South Sudanese refugee households have been displaced to North Darfur.

UNHCR has learned that there is an increase in self-organized returns of men to South Sudan (Greater Bahr Al Ghazal), allegedly trying to escape forced recruitment by parties to the conflict in Sudan.

North Kordofan

On 25 July, two heavy vehicles transporting around 300 refugees bound for South Sudan were taken into custody by armed groups at El Dibibat checkpoint and released two days later with all their belongings looted.

South Kordofan

UNHCR's partner Save the Children conducted a training for refugees in El Leri on fire prevention, camp management, and disaster preparedness.

West Kordofan

Several security and protection incidents, such as killing, theft, assault, looting, have been reported from some settlements this month. Legal aid partner Mutawinat has maintained its presence in most locations in the state, but the courts are not functioning properly.

Wad Madani (Jazirah State)

An assessment was conducted among IDPs in gathering sites, which found 44,436 IDPs in 172 gathering sites.

UNHCR and partner ADD have distributed NFIs to a total of 136 IDP households in various gathering sites.

White Nile State

Trucks arriving daily to the refugee camps in the state have been observed.

Site clearance/demarcation of Abu Dolou settlement is temporarily on hold due to unresolved land issues with the host community. In the camps, distribution of 12,000 plastic sheets is underway to address immediate shelter needs. Meanwhile, rains continue to impact access to the camps on the west of the river. Issues with ferry delays impede daily use by staff and aggravate risks for refugees due to limited access/presence of humanitarian actors.

The Ali El Karrar basic school in Rabak town was affected by strong winds, resulting in the destruction of the roofs of eight classrooms and causing injuries to four IDP children. The children were taken to a clinic for treatment and their condition is stable. UNHCR and local authorities conducted a joint assessment and arranged for all IDPs being relocated to a different school/gathering site. The incident highlighted the poor shelter conditions of IDPs and the need for support. With schools due to open soon, there is a need to find alternative shelter for the IDPs.

In total, there are now 116 gathering sites in the state, hosting more than 28,000 individuals. The registration of IDPs living with host communities is ongoing with 5,402 households comprising of 26,510 individuals registered thus far in Rabak locality.

In Khor Ajwal site, IDP figures have also increased. A total of 10,896 IDPs are already receiving food assistance while 1,348 have not yet been included in distribution due to the ongoing intersectoral assessment.

In Alganaa extension, a joint visit by UNHCR, the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) and host community leaders took place to allocate land patches to households. 100 family tents will be installed in the extension site.

In Um Sangour camp, distribution of NFI kits is ongoing, targeting 1,351 households. Distribution of plastic sheets in Jouri and Al Kashafa camps is also underway.

UNHCR and Medical Teams International (MTI) have initiated an assessment in various camp locations to support MTI in submitting a comprehensive proposal to bolster the delivery of health and nutrition services in the camps.

The White Nile State Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Aj Jabalain locality and host community, is offering land in Kilo Arba to support refugees' livelihood activities. However, the land faces recurring flooding leading to displacements in the past. UNHCR and FAO are working together to assess the feasibility of the project, which will provide refugees and host community with cultivable land and improved irrigation, promoting self-reliance and stability while mitigating the impact of flooding.

Gedaref

UNHCR is scaling up CBI support for IDPs, with distribution scheduled on 1 August for 83 households in one gathering site.

WFP completed food assistance to some 11,000 Eritrean refugees (protracted caseload) in Um Gargour, for the first time, as well as 1,500 refugees who arrived from Khartoum and conflict areas.

A total of 620 households with 1,440 Ethiopian refugees/asylum-seekers in Um Gulja have refused to be relocated to the camps and requested UNHCR to provide assistance to them in the location. The group said that they cannot join other Ethiopians in the camps because of different political party affiliations. Follow-up with COR is ongoing to discuss ways forward for the group.

UNHCR learned that 50 Ethiopian refugee youth who had fled Khartoum following the outbreak of conflict, have left the camp to return to Ethiopia through the Gallabat/Metema border point. UNHCR also received reports that six Eritrean refugees from Shagarab camp in Kassala were arrested by local authorities on the way to Gallabat to cross into Ethiopia assisted by smugglers. With the intervention of UNHCR's legal partner Mutawinat the group was released and handed over to COR who relocated them to Shagarab.

Port Sudan (Red Sea state)

UNHCR is working with COR to identify an alternative site for some 1,200 IDPs in makeshift dwellings, following an interagency assessment led by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). HAC has suggested the IDPs be relocated to a decommissioned hospital far from basic services.

UNHCR has finalized a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with COR, which will include a component on registration, beginning with verification of the existing caseload of Port Sudan and Khartoum, asylum-seekers,

new asylum applications, and on the situation Syrian nationals. UNHCR has also established a presence in the COR office for individual counseling and enhance the identification of persons with specific needs.

A large group of individuals, mostly composed of Sudanese adult males and a few male adolescents (plus a small number of Chadians and South Sudanese), have arrived from Egypt after allegedly being deported from the Halayeb area by Egyptian authorities who transported them to Port Sudan.

Blue Nile State

In follow up to the reported measles outbreak in an area of Wad al Mahi locality, WHO reported that measles has also affected Damazine and Geissan. Mitigation interventions including vaccinations and awareness raising are ongoing in Wad Al Mahi and Damazine but could not be conducted in Geissan due to the volatile security situation.

The Commissioner for Refugees recently met with state authorities, explaining the policy and position that conditions in the return areas in Benishangul Gumuz are not presently conducive for voluntary repatriation of refugees in Camp 6.

Heavy rains in the last days have resulted in challenges in field missions. Nevertheless, operations in Camp 6 are continuing.

Wadi Halfa (Northern State),

A trend of deportations of asylum-seekers from Egypt has been observed, with border officials reporting that more in detention in Egypt would be deported soon.

The assessment for potential cash-based interventions (CBI) assistance is ongoing while market assessment is being conducted in parallel.

UNHCR and OCHA conducted a first mission to Argeen border, the alternative crossing point to Egypt.

UNHCR is working with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and Emergency Room (community initiative) to support the displaced population in finding additional accommodation and suitable sites, as the continuous arrival of individuals into Wadi Halfa has led to overcrowding in most gathering sites, which has forced some to stay on the streets.

Kassala

The reception center for new arrivals is also being used as a shelter for most of the refugees/asylum-seekers arriving from Khartoum and other conflict areas, leading to congestion, and overcrowding. The center has a capacity of only 800 individuals but is now reportedly hosting some 5,000 individuals.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Highlights

- As of 30 July, a total of 1,305 individuals (579 households) have relocated to Korsi, 71 per cent are women and children. Self-organized relocations continue.
- According to monitors from the Commission Nationale des Réfugiés (CNR) and INTERSOS deployed at the border with Sudan, soldiers enter Am-Dafock in CAR and go to neighbouring villages, where they loot and pillage. Incidents have been reported, including many of gender-based violence. The situation at the border is fragile with no security personnel presence observed in Am Dafock.
- It is assumed that most people now stay on the Sudanese side of the border, waiting to see how the situation develops, while only a few try the risky journey to Birao, either to see what Korsi offers or to stay there.
- In Korsi, INTERSOS carried out individual counselling sessions with girls at risk of GBV, group counselling sessions on peaceful coexistence and daily life skills, as well as awareness raising sessions on human rights and recreational activities with children.
- To further the education of children in Korsi and sustain their inclusion in the national system, partners have paved a way forward to ensure children and youth have access to language and catch-up classes to join school soon.

Response Overview

Since the beginning of the crisis, an estimated number of 17,302 persons have arrived in CAR from Sudan, including 12,601 Sudanese refugees and 4,701 Central African returnees. The majority are women and children, who upon arrival stayed with host families, or in makeshift shelter and in schools in Am-Dafock, Vakaga region, where UNHCR and partners provided protection and life-saving assistance.

Due to the volatile security situation at the border, a relocation site, Korsi, was identified, close to the town of Birao, at about 65 km from Am-Dafock. To date, a total of 1,305 individuals (579 households) have settled in Korsi. As the roads to Am-Dafock have become impassable due to the rains, the assisted relocation exercise has been temporarily placed on hold, though self-organized relocations continue. The CNR and INTERSOS have deployed staff in Am-Dafock to conduct border and protection monitoring and provide information.

Assistance continues in Korsi, where construction works for family and community shelters, latrines and showers are ongoing. Biometric registration continues, a listening centre was established and individual and community psychosocial support is provided.

Awareness raising sessions on GBV, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), child protection, as well as healthcare and distribution of food and core relief items (CRI).

Registration

In Korsi, UNHCR continues to support the CNR to enhance monitoring and registration mechanisms for new arrivals. A total of 640 persons have been registered in Ndele and 1,118 in Sam-Ouandja.

Relocation

As of 30 July, a total of 1,305 individuals (579 households) have relocated to Korsi, of which 71 per cent are women and children. Self-organized relocations continue, and 456 individuals have arrived by their own means since the last relocation convoy.

Protection

The CNR and INTERSOS have deployed staff to Am-Dafock to conduct border and protection monitoring. From 20 July, they recorded 44 protection incidents, including gender-based violence.

INTERSOS carried out two awareness raising sessions on human rights in Korsi and at the District Sanitaire for 47 people (11 men, 29 women and 7 girls), individual counselling sessions with 7 girls at risk of GBV, group counselling sessions on peaceful coexistence (70 persons) and daily life skills, such as knitting and cooking (92 women and 27 girls) and recreational activities with 106 children (56 boys, 50 girls).

INTERSOS continues the identification of persons with specific needs. 205 persons have been identified so far (159 women and 46 men). INTERSOS also conducted 59 perception surveys with asylum-seekers in Korsi. The main issues raised are related to security (solar lamps and latrine lighting), improved shelter and access to educational services.

Health

The health response is supported by UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, the District sanitaire, IMC, and MSF-Spain. NOURRIR is UNHCR's implementing partner for the activities in Korsi.

NOURRIR, MSF-Spain and IMC carried out 408 curative consultations (108 children aged 0-4 years), seven gynecological consultations and two postpartum consultations. Three births have been registered in Korsi last week (2 boys and 1 girl).

Shelter, Core Relief Items (CRIs) and Food Distribution

NOURRIR completed 431 shelters in Korsi. WFP and NOURRIR are preparing for a new distribution of food.

WASH

Triangle (TGH), supported by UNICEF, has started the construction work of five durable latrines and showers close to the Korsi health centre.

The second drilling by AWCA, NOURRIR and the National Agency for Water and Sanitation (ANEA) provides water to Korsi.

Education
To further the education of children in Korsi and sustain their inclusion in the national system, which needs much strengthening, UNHCR, the Ministry of Education, UNICEF, Nourrir, CNR and the Alliance Française have paved a way forward to ensure children and youth have access to language and catch-up classes to be able to join school soon. A mission will be deployed in the coming weeks to implement the first phase of the emergency education response.

CHAD

Highlights
- As of 31 July, 348,306 refugees have been counted in eastern Chad. Mid-July, IOM estimated that 48,180 Chadian migrants had returned from Sudan.
- In the town of Adré (Ouaddaï), 196,643 refugees were counted as of 31 July. The situation in Adré remains critical despite significant progress with 39,240 refugees relocated to the newly established Ourang camp, and the mobilisation of WASH and health partners.
- Needs remain immense to respond to the large number of refugees arriving in Chad.
- A site where a new refugee camp could be established in the short term has been identified in Miete (Ouaddaï province).
- In all three provinces, relocation is continuing from border sites to the extension areas of both the existing refugee camps and to the new camps.

Response Overview

Relocation
As of 31 July, UNHCR and partners African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Dévéloppement (CIAUD), National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees (CNARR), Chadian Red Cross (CRT), International Recuse Committee (IRC), and Les Forces Françaises au Tchad have relocated 113,223 individuals (32,039 households), of whom 30,844 individuals were relocated to the new camp of Zabout (Sila); 25,264 to extension areas of existing camps in Ouaddaï (Gaga, Farchana); Sila (Djabal, Goz Amir); and Wadi Fira (Mile, Kounoungou, and Iridimi); 38,161 to the new camp of Ourang (Ouaddaï) from Adre and Ambilia; 18,954 to the new camp of Arkoum (Ouaddaï); 3,958 to the Ambilia transit center (Ouaddaï) and 2,987 to Ourang camp.

Protection
As of 24 July, the Inter-Agency Protection Monitoring (*Project 21*) in Adré has collected data from 4,207 households in 13 villages in the provinces of Ouaddaï, Wadi Fira, and Sila. 67 per cent of the households say they have no intention of returning to Sudan even if the situation improves in the coming months, and 71 per cent say they feel integrated into the host community.

Food Distribution
A total of 293,597 refugees, Chadian migrant returnees, and vulnerable people from host communities, have received food from WFP (243,855 in Ouaddaï, 37,291 in Sila, and 12,451 in Wadi Fira).

UNHCR and CRT have provided hot meals to 121,361 refugees during their relocation from various spontaneous arrival sites to the camps in eastern Chad (77,029 in Ouaddaï, 37,958 in Sila, and 6,374 in Wadi Fira).

Health and Nutrition
Partners have set up 17 mobile clinics in Adré (3), Ambilia, Arkoum, Borota, Dizé-Berté, Gongour, Koufroune, Labandafack, Mahamata, Midjiguilta, Toumtouma (Ouaddaï); Adémour (Sila); Birack, Djimeze, and Tiné (Wadi Fira).

Since the beginning of the emergency response in mid-April, a total of 38,688 medical consultations have been carried out. The three main pathologies remain acute respiratory infections (ARI), watery diarrhea, and malaria (24,978 children were measured for malnutrition; 4,815 cases of moderate acute malnutrition; and 2,034 cases of severe acute malnutrition were treated).

A total of 5,305 pregnant and breastfeeding women have been screened and 405 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and 119 cases of severe acute malnutrition have been treated.

In total, 292 births assisted by qualified personnel have been recorded.

In addition, 3,780 mental health cases have been received and treated.

UNICEF, through the CRT, have carried out awareness-raising campaigns reaching 18,373 people, focusing on nutrition, breastfeeding, and peaceful cohabitation. This brings the total number of people reached in the three provinces to 92,735.

The measles vaccination campaign is ongoing in the Zabout and Djabal camps. So far, 4,223 children aged between six months and 14 years have been vaccinated in Djabal, and 6,515 in Zabout.

An accumulated number of 2,495 cases of gunshot wounds have been recorded in Adré.

Shelter, Infrastructure, and WASH

To date, 16,787 family shelters, 130 hangars, 2,711 latrines and showers, and 21 functional boreholes have been built in the three eastern provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila and Wadi Fira.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- As of 29 July, over 72,700 persons from 75 nationalities have crossed into Ethiopia. They include almost 31,000 people who need international protection, of whom 67.8 per cent are Sudanese.
- In Metema/Gondar, over 11,000 of the 17,648 new arrivals have been relocated to the transit site and Kumer settlement since April.
- In response to the increased arrivals via the Kurmuk entry point, the transit centre there has been expanded to accommodate 9,000 people from its original capacity of 2,000 people.
- Family tracing and reunification is ongoing for the 167 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) that have been identified at the Metema border so far.
- In response to reports of suspected cases of cholera in the Amhara region, UNHCR and partners have developed a prevention and response plan for Metema border, transit centre and Kumer site.

Response Overview

Following reports of over 2,150 suspected cases of cholera in the Amhara region, UNHCR and partners have developed a prevention and response plan for Metema border, transit centre and Kumer site. Health professionals, social workers and members of the refugee leadership have been briefed about the situation and will soon start mass awareness sessions to help prevent the spread of the disease.
In view of the increased arrivals via the Kurmuk entry point, the transit point at Kurmuk has been expanded to accommodate 9,000 new arrivals, from its original capacity of 2,000 people.

Operational Response

Resource limitations have impacted UNHCR and partners' ability to respond adequately to the critical needs of the new arrivals, especially in the WASH, health, and food sectors. The limited presence of partners compounds the challenge. As the number of new arrivals keeps growing, more resources and partners are needed to ensure refugees and asylum-seekers receive much needed assistance.

Population movements

As of 29 July, 72,784 people (from 75 nationalities) have crossed into Ethiopia, according to IOM data. This includes 15,481 families/30,984 individuals (67.8% Sudanese, 26.4% Eritreans, and 4.4% South Sudanese) who have been screened by Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and UNHCR as new asylum-seekers/refugees and 343 Ethiopian refugee returnees.

Of these, 57 per cent crossed through Metema, 40.8 per cent entered via the Kurmuk border point in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, and 2.3 per cent through Pagak/Burbiey in the Gambella region. Out of overall screened population, 84 per cent are new asylum-seekers, while 16 per cent had previously registered as refugees in Sudan before fleeing to Ethiopia.

Protection

Partners continue to provide support and specialized services to survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) at the Kurmuk and Metema entry points as well as at the transit sites and at Kumer settlement. At Metema (entry point, transit centre and Kumer site) 420 individuals, benefitted from awareness sessions on GBV prevention, reporting tools and available services. Partner Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC) distributed dignity kits and provided psychosocial service to 12 women at risk in Kumer. 10 GBV cases received support by partner IRC at the Kurmuk transit centre.

New arrivals have continued to approach UNHCR at the entry points, transit sites as well as at Kumer site in Metema for counselling and information. During the last week, 30 people visited the three desks, seeking information on registration and documentation, family reunification, resettlement, and other alternative pathways, as well as food and shelter assistance.

A total of 167 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) have been identified at the Metema border so far. Family tracing continues, with two children reunified with their families to date. Children continue to play and learn in the Child-Friendly Spaces in Kumer, with 644 kids benefiting from this service during the week. 360 children and their caregivers, including 20 newly arrived UASC were supported through psychosocial support and briefed about the situation in Kumer, including potential risks.

At the Metema entry point, 30 Persons with Special Needs (PSN) were received and provided the necessary support before their prioritized relocation to Kumer site.

Health

In the context of reports of suspected cases of cholera in Quara Woreda of the Amhara region, some 124 km from Gendawuha (Metema), an orientation session on cholera outbreak prevention was offered to humanitarian personnel, social workers, and the refugee leadership in Kumer site. They will in turn be raising awareness amongst the refugee and host communities about the disease, its transmission and ways to prevent it. UNICEF has pitched two tents to serve as treatment centers, should the disease spread to the site.

During the week, health partner Medical Teams International (MTI) treated 355 outpatients at the Kumer health centre, including 84 children under five years of age. Out of 87 children screened for signs of malnutrition during the week, nine children with severe and acute malnutrition were referred for treatment and follow up. 17 pregnant and lactating mothers were also screened, of whom three were referred for nutrition treatment.

Site Development and Relocation

In Metema/Gondar, 11,197 of the 17,648 new arrivals were relocated to the transit site (2,500) and Kumer settlement (8,679) since refugees started to arrive in April 2023. UNHCR and partners put up 1,412 family tents and 18 communal hangars to accommodate them.

In Kurmuk/Assosa, a total of 1,246 out of the estimated over 14,000 new arrivals were relocated to Sherkole refugee camp, while the rest are sheltered at the transit site and other facilities in Kurmuk. The transit centre at Kurmuk has now been expanded to accommodate up to 9,000 people from its original capacity of 2,000 people. UNHCR is discussing with the RRS on the possibility of setting up a new settlement site to accommodate the new arrivals for a longer term.

WASH

16 Community Hygiene Promoters (CHPs) continue to conduct interactive community awareness sessions, spreading messages around personal, household, and environmental hygiene and proper waste disposal. Participants were made to understand the direct positive impact hygiene and proper waste disposal have on personal and community health.

At Kumer settlement, eight latrine blocks with five drop holes each and 10 blocks of shower with five rooms each are serving the communities. Construction of five more blocks of latrines and five blocks of showers is ongoing.

The latrine to beneficiary ratio stands at 1:217, falling far short of the acceptable minimum emergency standard of 1:50. The latrine to beneficiary ratio at the Metema transit center stands at 1:100.

While refugees at the transit site received 20 litres of water per person per day (l/p/d), those at the Kumer site received only 9 l/p/d, requiring more investment to improve the water supply.

EGYPT

Highlights

- Since the conflict began in Sudan, UNHCR has detected a significant increase in the number of homeless persons, especially women at risk, among the cases managed by UNHCR and partners. Homeless cases approaching the office increased from 13 per cent in March to 32 per cent in June, with most cases relating to highly vulnerable single mothers, facing housing risks due to the socio-economic situation and dramatic rent increases. UNHCR is working to refer such cases for community support. However, community solutions and the identification of culturally appropriate accommodation remain a challenge.
- As of 30 July, 47,489 new arrivals have approached UNHCR for registration and other protection services. Of the 25,798 Sudanese refugees registered with UNHCR, 57 per cent are female and 43 per cent are male; 94 per cent originate from Khartoum. Around 44 per cent of them want to stay in Egypt and 48 per cent have not yet decided where to go, while six per cent intend to travel abroad and only two per cent are willing to return to Sudan.
- UNHCR partner the Psychosocial Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) has noted a growing demand for mental health and psychosocial support among the displaced population, increasing from 93 cases in March to 147 cases in June. Requests for such support often involved cases with compounded needs and interconnected issues, such as psychological distress, mental health issues and suicidal thoughts. To help meet the demand, PSTIC has increased its support and information presence at UNHCR offices in Cairo.

Protection

On 24 July, UNHCR delivered a refresher session to highlight to key partners, including UN sister agencies, the GBV safety and recovery package, which aims to enhance prevention and response to GBV and mitigate its risks. The package is a form of cash assistance provided by UNHCR in Cairo and Alexandria, at a value of USD 270 which is provided once a year to GBV survivors and individuals at risk of GBV. It is designed to promote their safety and recovery based on a holistic case plan, a process during which the caseworker and the survivor set up – together – the action points towards recovery, and an individual needs assessment. In response to the Sudan crisis, the package has been expanded to include newly arriving women while prioritizing GBV survivors. The training, attended by 32 members from the inter-agency GBV Working Group, aimed to support partners in identifying the most vulnerable of GBV survivors and individuals at high risk, and to explain the process of referring these cases to UNHCR.

Registration

Of the 47,489 individuals undergoing UNHCR registration processing, 25,798 persons have been prioritized and registered while the remaining were issued with registration appointments. Of the total registered, 57 per cent are women, 43 per cent are men, and 94 per cent originate from Khartoum. Registration data indicates that 72 per cent possess government issued identity documentation, including 53 per cent who possess national passports, 19 per cent who possess national identity cards or birth certificates, and the remaining who presented other forms of documentation. A total of 49 per cent of the new arrivals have been assessed to receive emergency cash assistance, due to recognized specific needs, including unaccompanied children, people living with disabilities, single parents, and those with serious medical needs. Furthermore, around 44 per cent of them want to stay in Egypt and 48 per cent have not yet decided where to go, while six per cent intend to travel abroad and only two per cent are willing to return to Sudan.

UNHCR has increased its registration appointment issuance capacity by 190 per cent, and overall registration processing by over 350 per cent since the onset of the Sudan crisis. Registration appointments continue to be provided to individuals in-person and through the Infoline. Prioritization take places for urgent and emergency requests through self-identification as well as through referrals by partners and functional units. The office is currently further adjusting the infrastructure of the 6 October Main Building Reception to meet the emerging needs, including by installing a Rub Hall dedicated to appointment issuance to enhance efficiency gains with regards to the process flow.

Cash Assistance

UNHCR continues to provide one-off emergency cash assistance to registered and unregistered new arrivals from Sudan. Since the start of the Sudan conflict, a total of 24,900 registered and unregistered individuals (8,674 households) have been identified by UNHCR as eligible for the emergency cash assistance among whom 10,823 individuals (3,874 families) have already been assisted. Some 4,958 unregistered households (15,268 individuals) were assessed by UNHCR partner, Caritas, for eligibility for emergency cash assistance via assessments in Aswan, Greater Cairo, and Alexandria, with 73 per cent of these being female-headed households.

Around 63 per cent of the assessed unregistered households (3,120 households, 10,215 individuals) are eligible for emergency cash. As of 29 July, 1,534 unregistered families (5,027 individuals) have already been assisted through the Egypt Post Office. 5,554 eligible registered cases (14,685 individuals) have been identified to receive emergency cash assistance and 2,340 cases (5,796 individuals) have already been assisted; the remainder is in process of being assisted.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- As of July 30, a cumulative number of 45,678 households / 199,342 individuals has been recorded in South Sudan, with 2,590 households / 11,074 individuals recorded during the reporting period.
- UNHCR vehicles and hired trucks transporting refugees from Abyei to Wara got stuck in the forest for two days due poor road and weather conditions. While the refugees were eventually relocated to Aweil, fears remain that continued heavy rains will make Abyei completely inaccessible.
- Six suspected measles cases from the transit center were referred to Paloich Friendship Hospital for medical management. Rumours about measles cases at the center are reportedly deterring some new arrivals from Renk entering the camp. The total number of death cases in the transit site to more than 58.
- According to burial reports, there have been 25 deaths linked to measles in less than three weeks in Unity State, with actual figures expected to be significantly higher.
- Cumulatively, 44,052 returnees have arrived/transited from Renk to Malakal Reception Center by boat.

Updates by Location

Upper Nile State

Renk

Tensions have been building at the Joda Reception Center following the announcement that transportation services for non-vulnerable individuals from Joda-Renk would be suspended while UN agencies verify individuals at the site. After security assessment, it was agreed that a team would be deployed to the reception center to engage with police, local authorities, and returnee leaders to help dissipate tensions and monitor the situation.

Paloich

Six suspected measles cases from the transit center were referred to Palouch Friendship Hospital for medical management. Moreover, reports of measles cases at the center are reportedly deterring some new arrivals from Renk, from entering the camp; they are instead occupying areas surrounding it.

One death of a minor (two-year old) was reported at the transit site, bringing the total suspected number of deaths to more than 58. The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) together with the County Health Department (CHD) will establish the exact number of deaths at the transit site since the start of the response.

Rain and poor road conditions have curtailed the delivery of drinking water to the transit site during last week. Returnees have subsequently been forced to walk for hours to access water points outside the transit site. There are concerns that returnees may resort to using other unclean water sources if the situation persists.

Maban

New arrivals/refugees at Doro Reception Center are continuing to grow agitated at the level of service provision and their extended stay at the centre. Crowds that gathered at the UNHCR office during the week were addressed.

Malakal

An estimated 9,000 returnees are being housed at the reception center and surrounding areas and schools. Given the increased population, UNHCR and IOM have proposed that the government committee select a new location for expansion of the reception center. UNHCR and IOM will also assess the needs for additional communal shaded areas to increase shelter capacity in the reception center to 10,0000 people as arrivals from Renk continue to rise.

Health partners are receiving over 200 cases daily at primary clinics at the reception center, by far exceeding the capacity of the clinics. Moreover, IMC has provided Outpatient Department (OPD) consultations to a cumulative number of 6,389 individuals at the primary clinic at reception center since the beginning of the response.

Unity State and Ruweng Administrative Area

Bentiu

The measles death rate in Unity State is continuing to raise concerns. According to burial reports, there have been 25 deaths linked to measles in less than three weeks, with actual figures expected to be significantly higher.

Northern Bahr el Ghazal

Wau/Aweil

South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) has declared that the government, in consultation with UNHCR, has agreed to change the status of the transit center to a refugee settlement. Accordingly, the State Government has agreed to allocate 1,500 acres of land, out of which 653 acres have already been demarcated.

Abyei Administrative Area

Abyei

Poor road and weather conditions have limited the access to Abyei. UNHCR vehicles and hired trucks transporting refugees from Abyei to Warap got stuck for two days because of poor road conditions caused by heavy rains. While the team succeeded in relocating refugees to Aweil, there are fears that continued heavy rainfall could make Abyei completely inaccessible.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

Refugee Response Plan (RRP)

- The revised Sudan Emergency Refugee Response Plan – May to October 2023 seeks **USD 566.4 million** to support refugees, returnees and host communities in CAR, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan. As of 31 July, the inter-agency Refugee Funding Tracker shows that the RRP has reached a funding level of **29%**.
- Sudan Emergency Regional Refugee Response – June 2023 Progress Report

Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

- The revised inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Sudan – May-December 2023 requires **USD 2.56 billion** to help 18 million people.

UNHCR Supplementary Appeal

- UNHCR's Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal – May to October 2023 was revised in June to reflect the needs of **USD 277.3 million** that are also within the updated Sudan Situation RRP and the revised Sudan HRP. As of 20 July, UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal has reached a funding level of **34%**[1] ($95,687,302 received of the total requirements): Sudan Situation Funding Update

Resources

- UNHCR's Operational Data Portal (ODP) for the Sudan Situation provides daily updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan's neighbouring countries.
- Overview of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers Distribution and Movement in Sudan Dashboard (as of 30 July).
- UNHCR and IOM Joint Dashboard of arrivals to South Sudan, including data on returnee intentions, onward movements, and numbers and locations of returnees in and around Renk.
- UNHCR Global Focus Sudan Operation page
- UNHCR Sudan Emergency website
- UNHCR Protection Brief on Sudan – July 2023
- UNHCR Protection Brief on Chad – July 2023
- UNHCR's HELP site for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Sudan provides information to individuals seeking information and support inside Sudan (in English and Arabic).

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[1] This is down from 46% in the previous Sudan Situation external update, which was due to an error in the funding update.