

Sudan

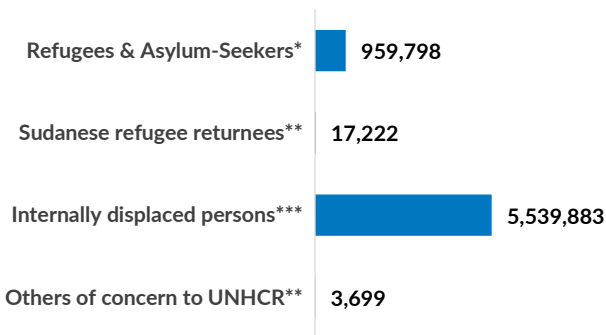
December 2023

Since the conflict started in April 2023, the humanitarian situation in Sudan has worsened, leading to **unprecedented displacement** inside the country and to neighbouring countries.

Humanitarian needs have grown exponentially since the start of the conflict. The revised Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 estimates almost 25 million people in need in Sudan.

Providing adequate protection services and life-saving assistance to those in need is difficult. **A durable ceasefire and local peace agreements are urgently needed.**

POPULATION OF CONCERN

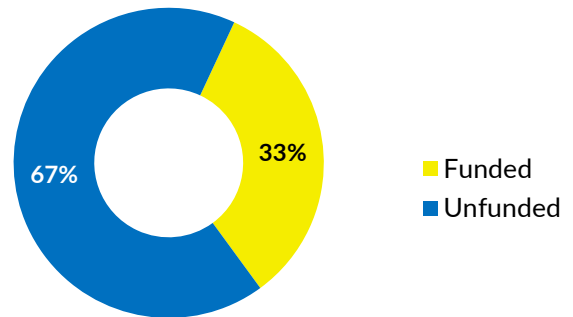


*Source: UNHCR Operational Data Portal, 30 September 2023
 ** Source: UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report, 3 October 2023
 *** Source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, Weekly Displacement Snapshot, 19 December 2023

FUNDING (AS OF 15 DECEMBER 2023)

USD 418.2 million

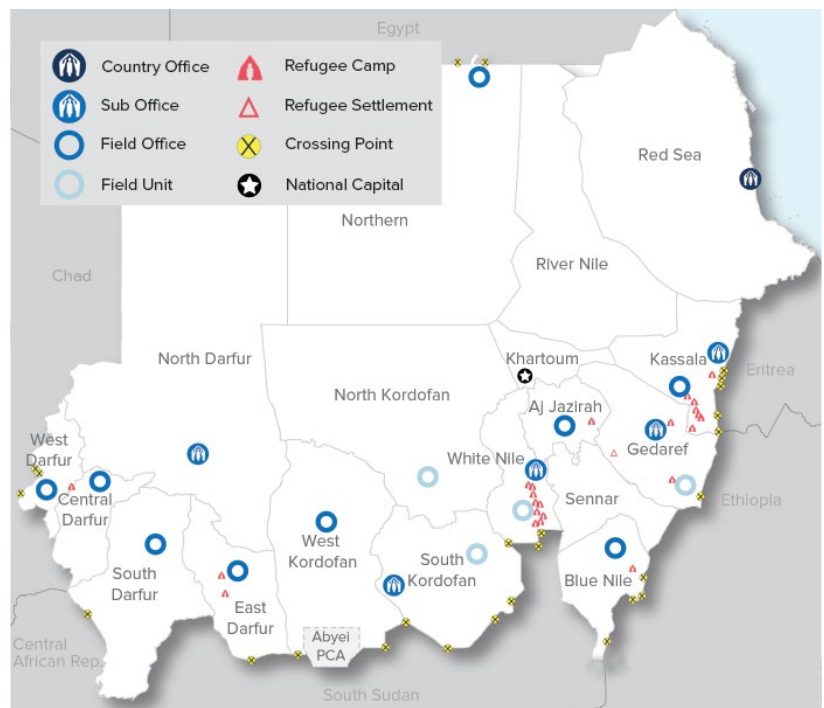
requested for the Sudan Operation in 2023



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 654
 498 National Staff
 156 International Staff

Offices: 21
 1 **Country Office** in Port Sudan
 5 **Sub-Offices** in El Fasher, Gedaref, Kassala, Kadugli, Kosti
 9 **Field Offices** in Damazine, Girba, Wadi Halfa, Wad Madani, Ed Daein, El Geneina, El Fula, Nyala, Zalingei
 4 **Field Units** in Abu Jubayhah, El Obeid, Aj Jabalain, Um Rakuba
 2 **Support Hubs** in Nairobi, Kenya; Farchana, Chad



Partnership and Coordination

UNHCR works with **30** project partners which include **17** international NGOs, **eight** national NGOs and **five** government entities, namely the Commission for Refugees (COR), Forests National Corporation, State Ministry of Education, State Ministry of Health and Water, Environment and Sanitation Corporation. In addition, UNHCR engages with **11** organizations led by refugees and IDPs. UNHCR is strengthening its engagement with the government, inter-agency mechanisms and humanitarian actors in the emergency context.

UNHCR and COR jointly lead and coordinate the refugee response in Sudan as co-chairs of the Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF). The forum brings together partners which provide protection and assistance to refugees in Sudan. Under the inter-agency coordination framework for IDPs, UNHCR leads the Protection, Shelter and Non-Food Items and Site Management (Camp Coordination and Camp Management) Clusters in Sudan.

Strategic Directions

The conflict in Sudan requires a constant review of the Office's country programme while adopting a flexible approach, considering various scenarios, which can be recalibrated as the context evolves and opportunities become available. The overall strategic directions which guide the programme are:

- Strengthen support to critical life-saving humanitarian activities for forcibly displaced, stateless people and hosting communities to have safe access to essential services.
- Improve effectiveness of protection systems using a community-based approach increasing community capacities and self-reliance.
- Shift to a refugee settlement model by streamlining services into national systems along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus and through solutions-oriented programming with a view to improve social cohesion and mitigate tensions around competition for limited resources.
- Build and enhance strategic partnerships, streamline coordination with the Government of Sudan, national and international partners and strengthen national and local capacities.
- Lead the refugee response and coordination with the Commission for Refugees (COR), and the Protection, Shelter/Non-Food Items and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters for the IDP response.

Main Activities

Protection

UNHCR provides **multi-sector protection and assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers** in established camps and settlements across Sudan in a conflict sensitive manner, with due consideration of the specific needs of groups secondarily displaced due to the conflict. In response to the large number of refugees and asylum-seekers secondarily displaced due to the conflict, additional land was provided by the local authorities and host communities in White Nile State when established camps reached capacity. UNHCR also supports **refugee returnees** re-establish themselves in areas of return through a needs-based multi-sector approach.

Since the start of the conflict, **registration** activities have continued in locations where the security situation allows, to support the delivery of protection and assistance to refugees across the country. Initially UNHCR estimated the refugee population and asylum-seeker numbers based on reported population movements. Recently the Office started verification processes and is updating UNHCR's ProGres database. The operation also engages with UNHCR offices in neighbouring countries on population movement tracking, data transfers and resolution of biometric identity records processing for cross-border movements.

The Government of Sudan leads the **Refugee Status Determination (RSD)** process. Due to the conflict, however, all RSD activities in Khartoum have been suspended while RSD continues in Kassala State, albeit at a slower pace.

Resettlement, family reunification, and private sponsorship cases for admission to third countries have also been temporarily suspended. At the request of the receiving countries, a small number of refugees departed Sudan on resettlement since the outbreak of conflict. UNHCR in neighbouring countries is identifying refugees, who have fled the violence in Sudan and may have already been considered for resettlement and complementary pathways options to ensure that pathways towards solutions are not interrupted. In parallel, UNHCR uses this information to advocate that registered refugees still in Sudan are nevertheless considered for durable solution options.

Community-based protection

UNHCR follows a community-based approach supporting community-based protection networks, community outreach volunteers, and refugee leaders to carry out community-based protection monitoring and referrals, especially in hard-to-reach areas. UNHCR is also setting up multi-purpose community centres across the country to serve as 'one-stop' shops for forcibly displaced to receive a wide-range of protection services and assistance from UNHCR and partners.

Emergency Response to Internal Displacement

UNHCR scaled up its IDP response, previously focussed on the Darfur region, at the start of the conflict expanding it to other areas hosting IDPs. A community-based approach allows forcibly displaced access to protection services and strengthens social cohesion between communities in areas of displacement. UNHCR is building capacities of local authorities, partners, staff, and communities to strengthen the response in areas hosting IDPs. UNHCR initiated a cross-border response from eastern Chad to provide vital assistance to West and Central Darfur States.

Solutions, Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

Despite the conflict, UNHCR is investing in strengthening forcibly displaced communities' vocational skills, access to markets, and livelihoods especially in areas less affected by the conflict. This reduces dependency and enables forcibly displaced and hosting communities achieve self-sufficiency in line with the humanitarian, development and peace nexus approach.

Financial Information

As of 15 December 2023

Special thanks to our donors including major donors of unearmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2023:

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