

Sudan

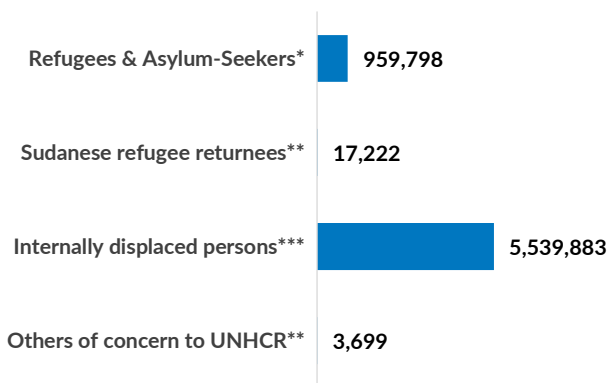
December 2023

Since the outbreak of conflict, the humanitarian situation in Sudan has worsened, leading to **unprecedented displacement**. The revised Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023 estimates that almost **25 million people are in need** in Sudan.

UNHCR provides **protection services** and **life-saving assistance** to the most vulnerable populations, staying and delivering in multiple field locations across the country despite the security situation.

UNHCR leads the **inter-agency refugee response** with the Commission for Refugees (COR) and the tri-sector coordination role for the **protection, shelter/NFI, and site management clusters** in the IDP response.

FORCIBLY DISPLACED POPULATION

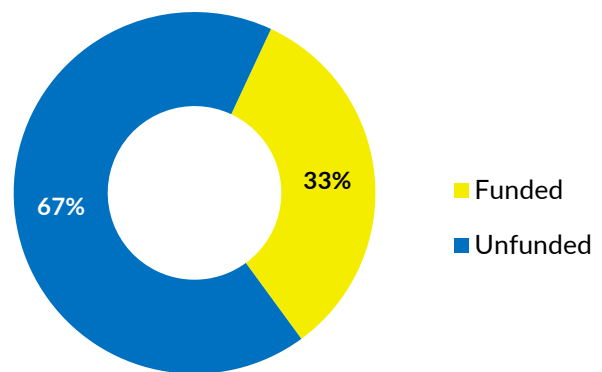


*Source: UNHCR Operational Data Portal, 30 September 2023
 ** Source: UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report, 3 October 2023
 *** Source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, Weekly Displacement Snapshot, 19 December 2023

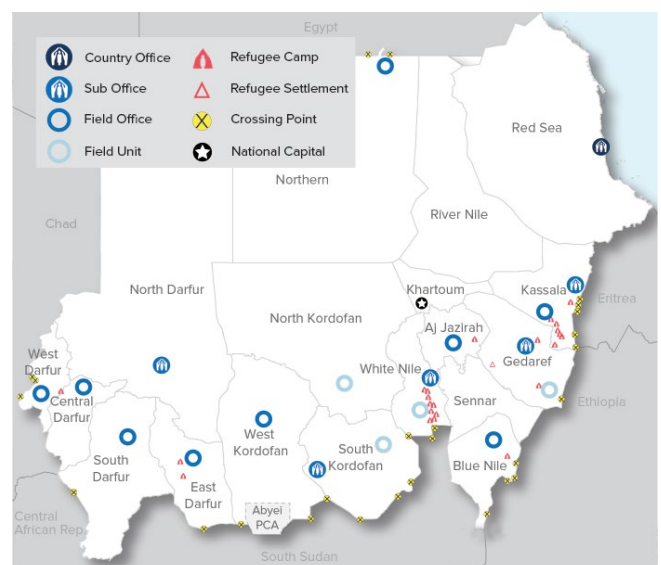
FUNDING (AS OF 15 DECEMBER 2023)

USD 418.2 million

requested for the Sudan Operation in 2023



In the Northern State, UNHCR launched a multi-purpose cash assistance programme to support vulnerable households prioritize and meet their basic needs. ©UNHCR/Daniel Kahura



Operational Context

The impact of the conflict on the humanitarian situation in Sudan is devastating. Eight months on, there are shortages in basic services and commodities such as food, fuel, and cash. Health care and communication services have broken down or are insufficient to meet the needs. Inter-communal and ethnic tensions are resurfacing, and the conflict has resulted in massive displacement. An estimated 24,000 people are forcibly displaced daily across the country. It is estimated over 5.5 million people are internally displaced in Sudan since the start of the conflict and 1.3 million people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. Prior to the conflict, Sudan already had a sizeable internally displaced population of ca. 3.7 million people, accommodated mostly in the Darfur and Kordofan States. In addition, over 195,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority of whom had been living in and around the capital Khartoum, have self-relocated within Sudan to safer areas, such as to established refugee camps in the White Nile State.

Since 15 December 2023, the conflict has moved into Al-Jazirah State prompting the forcible displacement of between 250,000 and 300,000 people in a few days both inside Sudan and to neighbouring countries. The situation is evolving rapidly and humanitarian partners are responding according to needs and access.

Key Achievements

IDP Emergency Response

Prior the conflict, UNHCR's IDP response was focussed on the Darfur region, where the majority of internally displaced from previous conflicts were accommodated. At the onset of the conflict, **UNHCR scaled up its coordination role** for the Protection and Shelter and Non-Food Items Clusters and reactivated the Site Management Sector (Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster) in 15 of 18 states in Sudan. Many areas, particularly in White Nile State and eastern Sudan, witnessed the arrival of large numbers of forcibly displaced people and needed additional support to address the needs in a conflict-sensitive manner.

UNHCR's IDP response in Sudan follows a community-based approach which enables displaced and hosting communities identify their most critical needs and solutions most appropriate to them. To this end, UNHCR is setting up multi-purpose community centres in six states to serve as 'one-stop shops' where forcibly displaced and hosting communities alike can access a wide-range of protection services and other assistance. To support these community centres over **50 community-based protection networks** have been newly established and members trained to provide mobile outreach and services. In total there are over 100 established community protection networks comprising over **2,000 volunteers** across the country.

In addition to the community centres, UNHCR and its partners provide forcibly displaced and vulnerable hosting communities with basic non-food items and shelter assistance. Close to **130,000** IDPs and vulnerable members of the host community have **received non-food items** which include blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, and mosquito nets, amongst other basic items. Another **24,000 people received emergency shelter kits, cash for shelter or tents**.

To support self-reliance and boost the local economy, UNHCR provides cash assistance to the most vulnerable forcibly displaced and host community members. Since the start of the conflict **over 100,000 people have been assisted**, injecting over USD 3.6 million into the local economy. Multi-purpose cash is provided to the most vulnerable based on an agreed set of criteria with each member of eligible household receiving USD 45 for a three-month period.



In White Nile State, UNHCR supported the establishment of community-based protection networks and trained 250 refugees across 10 camps. ©UNHCR/Isadora Zoni

Emergency Cross-border Operations

The Darfur region, home to the majority of IDPs in Sudan before the current conflict started, has seen some of the fiercest fighting in recent months. Given limited operational presence among humanitarian agencies following evacuations and relocations and widespread looting in previous months, many agencies in Darfur including UNHCR depend on organized UN humanitarian convoys for the delivery essential supplies.

Access to West and Central Darfur has only been possible **from Chad through inter-agency cross-border operations** which were authorised in July 2023 by the Governments of Sudan and Chad. Near the Sudan-Chad border in Farchana, Chad, the humanitarian community has set up a logistics hub for which UNHCR provided four Rubb-halls and contributed an initial 10,000 non-food item kits comprising blankets, sleeping mats and kitchen sets. UNHCR has participated in **eight inter-agency convoys** in the last five months, providing much needed assistance to over **37,000 people** in West and Central Darfur. Additionally, **12 cross-border protection monitoring**

and needs assessments missions have taken place. The humanitarian community and UNHCR are discussing expanding the cross-border operations to serve other parts of the Darfur region.

Inter-Agency IDP and Refugee Response

UNHCR leads the **Protection, Shelter/Non-Food Items and Site Management Clusters** under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee framework for IDP responses under the overall coordination of OCHA. Since the start of the conflict, the coordination mechanisms have expanded their outreach to areas newly hosting IDPs, such as Gedaref, Kassala, Jazirah, White Nile, and Northern States, coordinating the protection response and providing guidance and advice to local authorities.

UNHCR, through the **Protection Cluster**, led the development of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Protection Strategy which was endorsed in September 2023. Since the outbreak of conflict, priorities for the Cluster have been revised to **focus on hotspot localities**, at risk localities and those hosting displaced people, prioritising **life-saving activities and preventive protection activities**. Programmatic focus includes legal assistance, cash assistance, referrals to specialized services, mental health and psychosocial support, protection monitoring, advocacy interventions, capacity development, and awareness raising. Community outreach, community support, support to dedicated community facilities and technical housing, land and property assistance to individuals are also priorities.

In November, the **tri-clusters** led by UNHCR drafted a common **position paper on the relocation and alternative solutions to gathering sites** which was endorsed by the national Inter-Cluster Coordination Group. This guidance note has been widely disseminated and discussed with the authorities to ensure that any relocation of IDPs out of public buildings or gathering sites are done in safety and in full consultation with the IDPs.

At the onset of the crisis, shelter and non-food item needs in Sudan were already acute. People in need of shelter and NFI assistance rose from 3 million to 5.7 million since the outbreak of conflict. Since April, the **Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster** has primarily targeted support in eastern Sudan while increasing efforts to reach affected populations in Khartoum State and the Kordofan and Darfur regions. The Cluster partners provide support to newly displaced people in open spaces, public buildings and camps and those staying with friends or relatives, while also addressing needs of those in protracted displacement.

The **Site Management Cluster** (Camp Coordination and Camp Management) was **activated in July 2023** in response to the multitude of sites where IDPs were congregating. Partners are collecting data on IDPs living in gathering sites and conducting site assessments to identify gaps, obstacles and duplication and to support the protection response and coordinate sector-specific interventions. The sector also undertakes advocacy by identifying cross-cutting issues and contributing to key information for decision-making by the Humanitarian Coordinator and Humanitarian Country Team. To date, UNHCR and partners have **mapped close to 1,000 gathering sites across the country** and assessments are ongoing at the site level.

Inter-Agency Refugee Response (Refugee Consultation Forum)

UNHCR jointly leads the refugee response in Sudan with the Commission for Refugees through the Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF). RCF **partners are delivering multi-sector assistance** to refugees in accessible areas, prioritizing the response for those living in camp settings. RCF partners have reached over **908,000 refugees and asylum-seekers with at least once form of assistance since April 2023**, including close to 588,000 with at least one full food ration. Despite the achievements in difficult operational environment circumstances the multi-sector needs faced by refugee populations are vast and refugees are largely unable to find durable solutions.

Operational Management

Following the evacuation of staff from Khartoum, the Kordofan and Darfur regions, UNHCR's Representation Office was relocated to Port Sudan, Red Sea State along with other UN agencies. UNHCR has also established two new offices in Sudan to effectively respond to additional needs of displaced persons in Wadi Halfa, Northern State and in Wad Madani, Jazirah State. Also, two new hubs were established outside Sudan. To support cross-border operations into Darfur an office has been set up in Farchana, Chad and a support hub has been established in Nairobi, Kenya. With due consideration of security and risk reduction measures, UNHCR has ensured adequate international and national staff presence since the conflict on a rotational basis. This operational footprint is regularly reviewed to scale-up where possible, while maintaining flexibility to adapt as the situation changes.

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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