ETHIOPIA

New Population Movement from Sudan

As of 25 February 2024

Context

Following the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan on 15 April 2023, Ethiopia is receiving thousands of forcibly displaced people at two main points of entry (Metema and Kurmuk) along the land border between Sudan and Ethiopia. The Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and UNHCR are coordinating the response to the new refugee inflows, including daily border monitoring, screening for asylum-seekers and refugees, and coordinating the provision of basic services, such as food, water, temporary shelter as well as emergency healthcare, together with partners.

Category of persons screened and recorded by RRS/UNHCR include Sudanese and Non-Sudanese new arrivals who are seeking international protection in Ethiopia and Ethiopian refugees returning to Ethiopia.

The recent escalation of the conflict in Sudan in mid-December 2023 has triggered new displacements towards Ethiopia.

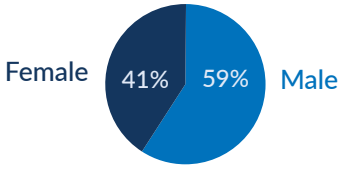
Key figures

48,373
Total new arrivals in need of international protection

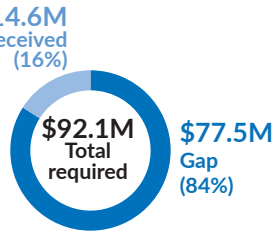
42,353
Sudanese and Non-Sudanese refugees/asylum seekers

6,020
Ethiopian refugee returnees

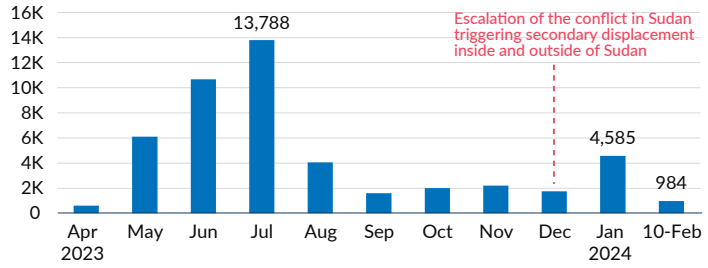
Gender breakdown and Funding



An estimated 58% of new arrivals are children



Monthly arrival trends | April 2023 - February 2024



Partners per sector, per location

25 Organizations responding to the emergency

Sectors	Metema	Kurmuk	Tigray
Coordination	RRS, UNHCR	RRS, UNHCR	UNHCR
Protection	RRS, UNHCR, IOM, RaDO, ERCS, PIE	RRS, UNHCR	UNHCR, IHS
GBV	DICAC, MTI, WVE, AAE	IRC, MTI	UNHCR
Community Based	UNHCR, RRS, DAICAC, IHS	-	UNHCR
Child Protection	IHS, SCI, WVE	PIE	IHS
Registration	RRS, UNHCR, IOM	UNHCR, RRS	UNHCR, IHS
Education	PIE, DICAC, Zonal Education Bureau	PIE	-
Shelter, Core Relief Item (CRI)	ANE (Shelter), RRS (CRI distribution)	ANE, RRS	UNHCR
Livelihood	PIE (CBI)	-	-
Health	MTI, WVE, UNICEF, Zonal Health Bureau	MTI, RRS, IRC	-
WASH	AAE, CRS, IHS, LWF, WVE, Zonal Water Dept	IRC, CISP, Kurmuk Water Office	-
Food Security	WFP, ANE	WFP, ANE	-
Nutrition	PIE	GOAL	-
Logistics	AAHI, IOM	IOM	-

People reached by sector

As of 31 Dec 2023

Sector	People In Need	People reached	% Reached
Livelihood	2,357	1,464	62%
Registration	55,546	38,097	69%
Food Security	55,546	22,399	40%
Health	55,546	8,667	16%
GBV	26,672	1,417	5%
Child Protection	30,330	1,939	6%
Education	26,811	15,818	59%
Shelter and CRI	55,546	18,287	33%

Operational overview

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

UNHCR Comprehensive Overview of Response to Emergencies (CORE)

Sources: : Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UNHCR, PARTNERS

For more information please visit : UNHCR Ethiopia Operation https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/eth UNHCR Regional Data Portal on Sudan emergency https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation

Operational challenges in Kurmuk (Benishangul Gumuz)

- While at the onset of the influx in May 2023, refugees wished to remain at the border given their hopes of return, this narrative has drastically changed.
  As articulated most recently in January 2024 to the High Commissioner during his Kurmuk mission, given the lack of prospects for peace in Sudan, **refugees are seeking integration in Ethiopia in a settlement context, without any intentions for return at present.**
- **Border points are volatile** with the potential for conflict, abduction, and other protection risks.
- The border proximity presents an ongoing risk of **child recruitment/abduction in armed conflict** in Sudan.
- **The proximity to the conflict at the border perpetuates trauma and anxiety among refugees**, hindering their ability to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.
- The fluid border entry point with a heavy military presence presents an acute risk of GBV and harmful coping mechanisms such as the sale or exchange of sex for money or goods.
- **Refugees have resorted to harmful coping mechanisms such as hazardous gold mining activities which have resulted in serious injury and death**. The gross lack of opportunities presents an ongoing risk of child abuse through the practice of child labour.

Operational challenges in Metema (Amhara)

- **Physical security in Kumer and Awlala** settlements is of concern.
- **Access to services, in particular life saving services such as health is also challenging** as transportation including lack of ambulance and untimely issuance of pass permits is persisting. Implementing Education activities is long coming.
- **Lack of livelihoods and future prospects** may exacerbate the frustration among the youth, leading to emerging unlawful activities such as drug consumption and trafficking.
- **Fragility of existing social cohesion between communities may delve into serious conflicts** if not remediated immediately through community empowerment mobilization.
- Durable solutions are very limited.

SECTORIAL RESPONSE

Sector	Response	Priorities/Challenges
Protection	**The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (HC) Filippo Grandi conducted a 3-day mission to Ethiopia focusing on the Sudan emergency response. The HC stayed from 29–31 January 2024 and visited Kurmuk Transit Centre in Assosa, Benishangul-Gumuz region (BGR).** Press release In Metema (Amhara Region) and Kurmuk, BGR, there has been a significant increase of new arrivals. New arrivals are obtaining an entry visa at immigration, and move towards Addis Ababa, with transportation facilitated for both Sudanese and Ethiopian returnees. Returnees who are proceeding from Addis Ababa to other destinations are receiving additional transport grant of 60 USD. Relocation of new arrivals from Metema entry point to Kumer refugee settlement ongoing. In Benishangul Gumuz only new arrivals crossing the Ethiopian border through Gisan entry point are relocated to Sherkole camp for registration and other services. Kurmuk entry point continues to host refugees until the new allocated land by the regional government is developed. Level 1 registration is ongoing for new arrivals in both Kurmuk, and Metema areas. Level 3 registration is underway at Kumer settlement.	Key protection issues highlighted by the new arrivals include lack of basic services, such as health and shelter, severe levels of trauma, GBV, torture and the presence of extremely vulnerable children, unaccompanied minors and children with other specific needs. The Sudanese authorities have implemented a movement ban at the Gallabat entry point to Metema since 22 January, in response to allegations of violence against Sudanese nationals. According to the border officials, the closure is temporary, and both authorities are currently engaged in efforts to restore normal to the cross-border movements. In Kumer, UNHCR convened a meeting with 28 members of the women protection group and the women and gender representatives from the Refugee Central Committee to discuss matters pertaining leadership structure, women's participation, and various protection issues. Due to the

Sector	Response	Priorities/Challenges
	Social workers and community-based structures assisted in the identification and registration of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Kurmuk transit centre where their total number reached 1,160. Of these, Best Interest Assessment (BIA) was conducted for a total of 957 children. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) were distributed in three languages (Arabic, English, and Tigrigna) to new arrivals at the Metema entry point. Women and girls in both Kurmuk and Kumer are accessing the women and girls' safe space and attending the awareness sessions on GBV. Awareness-raising through public campaigns was conducted for the newly arrived asylum seekers on GBV, PSEA, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and basic services were provided in Kumer and Kurmuk transit centres. A total of 528 women and girls received dignity kits and core relief items (CRIs) in Kurmuk. The GBV response services continue to support identified survivors with psychosocial support together with provision of material assistance, i.e. dignity kits. Multi-purpose cash was distributed to 1289 families in Kurmuk transit centre and 691 individuals at transit cetre in Metema and Kurmuk settlement. Each received 6,300 birr (or 112 USD). Persons with Disability, Unaccompanied and Separated children, elders, GBV survivors, malnourished children and women headed households were considered for the distribution. In addition, cash assistance was provided to 208 mothers with children under the age of 2.	volatile security situation in the region, fetching water from the river, was one of the main protection concerns mentioned as posing risk of violence.
Education	In Kurmuk, children aged 7-8 years old have access to education services with an attendance rate of 92%. Basic literacy and numeracy activities as well as distribution of high energy biscuits is provided to children visiting the child friendly space.	
Food Security	General food distribution conducted by ANE at Metema 13,455 and Kurmuk with 16,546 reached. **Finding of the Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS):** In Metama 91.4% engage in one or more negative coping strategy to meet the unmet food needs and 93.9% in Assosa.	Food inadequacy. The food basket only meets 60% of RDA for new arrivals who have not established coping systems.
Health & Nutrition	In Kurmuk transit centre and Kumer settlement, refugees, asylum seekers and host community members are receiving health services. Sexual and reproductive health services continued to be offered at the transit centre. In Kumer, mental health counselling was provided to adults and psychosocial support to children in need. Cases in need of further health services in Kumer were referred to Genda Wuha Hospital, in Amhara region. Community mobile health and nutrition teams supported by health and nutrition partners are complementing the existing health and nutrition services at Kumer settlement and the transit centre.	In Kurmuk, basic health services, delivered by RRS, are severely overstretched due to limited medication, equipment, and staff. Since 1 December 2023, the Red Cross has been unable to provide ambulance support due to lack of fuel. Expecting mothers are unable to receive medical attention on time and are obliged to deliver at home.

Sector	Response	Priorities/Challenges
	Mental Health and psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) education sessions including family planning consultations were provided at both Kumer settlement and Kurmuk transit centre for over 500 individuals. **35 children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women in Kumer and Kurmuk were referred for supplementary feeding treatment programme.** In Kurmuk, 200 pregnant and lactating women received material support including sanitary pads, baby wash, laundry soap, blanket, body soap, bedsheet, underwear, bucket (20-litre), pajama, sleeping mat (big size), and baby towel. Nutrition specific interventions continue to be prioritized. The Analysis of findings of the standardized expanded nutrition survey for Kurmuk and Kumer in December 2023 show Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence of 23.1% and 9.3% respectively. Critical and very high in at Kurmuk noting implications of insecurity with delays in GFD for over two months.	Whereas in Kumer, medications for chronic and mental illnesses, inadequate diagnostic capacities are among the concerning issues. In Kurmuk and Kumer, shortage of supplementary feeding and Plumpy'Nut is affecting the treatment of malnutrition. The prevalent diseases in Kumer and Kurmuk include acute upper respiratory infections, diarrhea, pneumonia, malaria, intestinal worms/parasites, and dyspepsia.
Shelter/Settlements & Core Relief Items (CRIs)	Coordination discussions are underway between UNHCR, RRS, local authorities and partners to develop the Awulala site in Metema and the new land received in Ura woreda in Assosa to eventually transfer refugees from Kumer settlement and Kurmuk transit centre respectively. Road construction is currently ongoing by the road transport bureau to access the land provided in the Ura woreda in Assosa. In Kumer, a total of 1,623 Individuals received 3,257 soaps, 3,081 sleeping mats, 1,154 kitchen sets, 1,479 mosquito nets, 1,152 buckets,1,005 solar lamps and 1,701 blankets.	At Kurmuk, limited resources have prevented the installation of partitions in the communal shelters and construction of hangars. This has led to multiple families being forced to share a single large space and provide for their own shelter needs. The absence of communal kitchens has also forced hangar occupants to cook inside posing a fire hazard, health risks and contributing significantly to leaks in the roof, affecting the sustainability of the hangars.
WASH	The water provision in Kumer settlement and the transit centre with an average of 10.5 litres/per/day (l/p/d) and 7 l/p/d in Kurmuk is below the emergency standard of 15 l/p/d. The new water filling station at Gunde wuha municipality, Amhara region, is operational since 12 January 2024. In Kumer and Kurmuk, cleaning campaigns were conducted to maintain the hygiene of the site. Organic wastes are dumped at a landfill, while inorganic trashes are burned.	In Kurmuk the community ponds' water level is running low due to rise in temperature making it insufficient to sustain the community until the next rainy season. This creates competition over water resources and will likely impact the relationship between the refugees and the host community. The current latrine to beneficiary ratio at Kurmuk and Metema area is below the emergency standard of 1:50. The rapid filling of latrines and the slow pace of replacements in Kumer remain a significant challenge posing health risks.

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