

Central African Republic (CAR) – SUDAN SITUATION

2 – 8 August 2024



In Birao, UNHCR donated mattresses, mosquito nets, mats, and masks to the Vakaga health district as a contribution to prevention following the rise in malaria cases in the town since the start of the rainy season. Coco Elizabeth /UNHCR

Highlights

- During the reporting period, the security situation in Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture remained calm but unpredictable due to the presence of non-state armed groups.
- The Vakaga prefecture is facing persistent crime, with armed bandits primarily responsible for robberies and attacks targeting humanitarian actors. Birao is relatively calm, but rumors of armed men riding motorcycles at late hours persist. Criminal groups targeting humanitarian actors considered to be wealthy and easy targets are expected to slow humanitarian activities in remote areas, negatively impacting forcibly displaced populations. The trend is likely to continue if no action is taken to stop them as they operate on roads and outskirts, knowing that international and regular forces are constrained by deteriorating road infrastructure and logistical capacity.

Population Movements and Registration

In Korsi/Vakaga, 30 households (103 individuals) were registered this past week, a slight decrease compared to the previous week. The average number of arrivals since July is 124 persons per week, compared to 204 persons per week in June and 231 persons per week in May. The decrease is due to degrading road conditions from Am Dafock to Birao during this rainy season, high transportation costs and insecurity. An emerging trend is that due to rising waters causing flooding on the Am Dafock-Birao axis, refugees arriving in Korsi no longer pass through Am Dafock in CAR but instead go through Amdukoum-Goba in Sudan to reach Birao.

Protection

In Vakaga prefecture, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS conducted 23 protection monitoring visits in Birao, enabling the team to collect information relating to the protection situation in the area amidst the presence of non-state armed groups. INTERSOS also conducted perception surveys among newly arrived refugees in Korsi, provided psychosocial support to gender-based violence (GBV) survivors visiting safe spaces, identified people with specific needs (PSNs), monitored the protection environment, supported community relays in conducting proximity awareness-raising, and held a coaching session with community relays. Following these visits, 74 protection incidents were identified and documented, including cases of property rights violations, violations of physical integrity, violations of the right to freedom, and cases of gender-based violence (GBV). These incidents affected 68 members of the host community and six Sudanese refugees.

Out of the 76 violations-related incidents, one case was referred to the Birao District health centre and received adequate medical support. However, other cases, mostly in remote and hard-to-reach localities, could not be referred or addressed for security and access reasons, even though the community protection structures alerted the team.

In addition, the INTERSOS team in Am Dafock carried out nine border monitoring visits. These visits enabled the team to monitor the protection environment, collect protection incidents in the area, conduct household surveys among returnees, provide psychosocial support to GBV cases in the safe space of Am Dafock, and identify PSNs. Only two out of 85 households who were reported in transit in Am Dafock in the past weeks continue to reside at the primary school, waiting for transportation to continue their journey to Birao.

INTERSOS conducted six perception surveys in Korsi with newly arrived refugee families. The topics covered were related to displacement dynamics and conditions from Nyala to Birao. The protection issues identified during these surveys are linked to the living conditions in Korsi, the need to consider asylum procedures, and the provision of food assistance. Regarding child protection, awareness sessions continue to be held with parents to ensure safe childcare during this farming season, as children are often left unsupervised and exposed to many protection risks.

UNHCR's governmental partner *Projet d'Appui au Retour et à la Réintégration en Centrafrique* (PARET) continued to monitor the spontaneous returns of CAR refugees from Sudan. Since the beginning of the Sudan crisis in 2023, PARET has registered 1,731 households (6,206 returnees) from Sudan. Among these families, only 396 of 1,233 people have received cash assistance from UNHCR due to resource limitations.

To strengthen accountability towards refugees, UNHCR's partner, INTERSOS conducted three awareness sessions for refugees in Korsi on the collective feedback mechanism, complaint management, and procedures during distributions. This activity aimed to educate refugees about their rights and responsibilities in humanitarian activities and encourage responsible behavior during distribution of assistance. These sensitization sessions reached 303 individuals.

This week, 88 complaints regarding assistance and information requests were collected from refugees in Korsi. This allowed for positive responses to requests concerning the need for core relief items, the renewal of the WFP SCOPE card, the verification of names on the food distribution list, theft in Korsi, and the cash assistance conducted by IMC.

Prevention against gender-based violence (GBV)

In the Vakaga prefecture, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS conducted three awareness-raising sessions on general protection in Korsi safe space, within the host community in Birao, and in Am Dafock. These sessions reached 275 people.

GBV incidents affecting refugees and host communities have been identified and documented in safe spaces within the Vakaga prefecture. Case managers provided psychosocial support to GBV survivors who could be reached; six medical referrals were made to the IMC clinic and Birao Health District for better care. Cash for protection was provided to GBV survivors from the host community and refugees in Korsi.

In the Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture, five group counselling sessions were also conducted with 138 Sudanese women and girls to discuss factors to mitigate physical violence and promote peaceful coexistence. Additionally, three discussion groups were organized for 71 women and girls in the safe space for Sudanese refugee women and those from the host community to address the causes of forced/early marriages. These exchanges revealed that the leading causes for forced/early marriages were related to poverty, culture, and custom. Following these activities, UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS developed a sensitization plan to reduce the rate of forced/early marriages in areas hosting refugees.

A total of 27 counselling sessions were conducted with 20 newly identified PSNs on community based GBV prevention mechanisms.

Education

The academic support classes during the summer holidays continued in collaboration with the Academic Inspectorate and the Birao School District. Enrollments significantly increased, from 350 children registered in the previous reporting week to 762 children this week. To address this, UNHCR's education partner INTERSOS recruited additional teachers this week to strengthen teaching and reduce class sizes.

This week, 412 school kits were distributed in addition to the 350 distributed last week to support refugees, returnees, IDP, and host community children enrolled in summer support classes.

Recreational activities, group therapy and sensitization sessions were organized at the Korsi children's friendly space, reaching 172 refugee children.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Eight additional operational emergency latrines were constructed in Korsi, totaling 163, with 86 persons per latrine. However, the number of showers remains at 241, with 58 persons per shower.

The potable water supply for 14,056 refugees is 140,000 litres from three functional boreholes in Korsi. The average quantity per person per day is 9.9 litres, below the emergency standard of 15 l/p/d.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

To date, 1,821 emergency shelters have been constructed in Korsi. Construction work on school and administrative buildings, including the academic inspectorate office in Birao, continued this week.

Food security

In Korsi, nutritional supplements were distributed to 157 children and 549 pregnant women at risk of malnutrition. WFP continued to distribute dry food to refugees this week and reached 3,024 households (9,210 individuals).

NOURRIR provided 11,424 hot meals to new arrivals and refugees without a ration card using food donated by WFP and 11,267 breakfasts were funded by UNHCR.

In the Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture, WFP distributed 12 tons of food to 333 families of 1,213 Sudanese refugees in Akroussoulbak, Zobossinda, and Koundji. This food consisted of rice, beans, oil, and salt. 425 children aged six to 23 months were assisted with food to prevent malnutrition.

Health and Nutrition

NOURRIR and International Medical Corps (IMC) conducted 1,078 curative consultations, of which 52 benefited the host population of Birao (4.82%) and 1,026 to Sudanese refugees living in Korsi (95.17%). Among the latter, 128 patients were new arrivals. Other medical interventions included gynecological, prenatal, and postnatal consultations for 26 Sudanese refugee women. Additionally, four secure deliveries were assisted this week in Birao, bringing the total to 84 deliveries and 87 births since the beginning of the year. A total of 28 patients were referred from Korsi to the Birao District Hospital for better care.

Regarding nutritional health, 17 new cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) affecting children aged six to fifty-nine months and five cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were screened and assisted. Since the beginning of the year, 1,118 children have been screened and assisted for MAM, 111 children for SAM, and 844 cases have received preventive malnutrition assistance.

A total of 31 pregnant women received a tetanus vaccine, and 15 children were vaccinated with multi-antigens, including five against measles. In total, 421 children have been immunized with multi-antigens, including 163 against measles, and 261 pregnant women have received a tetanus vaccine for routine vaccination since the beginning of the year.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) – January – December 2024

On 7 February, UNHCR and 81 organizations launched the [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#), with an appeal for **USD 46.2 million for the Central African Republic (CAR)** to provide essential aid and protection to 71,176 people in need, **including 39,876 refugees** fleeing the ongoing conflict in Sudan by the end of 2024. As of 8 August, the total funding for the CAR RRP remained at some USD 6.1 million or **13%** of the requirements.

UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – January - December 2024

UNHCR's total financial requirement for the 2024 [Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal](#) – in Sudan and neighbouring countries was revised on 3 July. It now amounts to **USD 1.03 billion**. As of 8 August, it was funded at **31%**.

Resources

- Data story: [Sudan: One year of spiralling conflict and displacement](#)
- [Sudan Regional Refugee Response 2024 - June revision](#)
- [Sudan Regional Response 2024 - At a glance](#)
- UNHCR's [Sudan Situation Supplementary Appeal - 2024 - June revision](#)
- [Sudan RRP 2024 Progress Report – January to April 2024](#)
- [End of Year Report Sudan Regional RRP 2023](#)
- UNHCR's [Operational Data Portal \(ODP\) for the Sudan Situation](#) provides daily updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan's neighbouring countries.
- [UNHCR Global Focus Sudan Operation page](#)
- [UNHCR Sudan Emergency website](#)

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