

Key figures

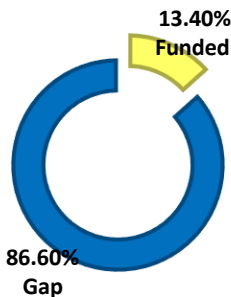
4.2 M Persons of Concern

193,091 refugees and asylum seekers¹

3.1 M IDPs²

940,154 IDP returnees³

152,020 Sudanese who have spontaneously returned from Chad between 2018 to date (verification is ongoing)



Darfur Operation Funding
January 2023

¹UNHCR ProGres Report

^{2&3} IOM-DTM November 2022

Key Highlights

2,472 households (11,590 individuals) were displaced in South and East Darfur following the December inter-communal violence in Beliel locality, South Darfur. According to IOM DTM, 9,800 individuals were displaced within South Darfur and 1,790 individuals to Yassin locality in East Darfur. The Rezeigat Arab and Daju leaders signed a cessation of hostilities agreement on 3 January 2023 in Beliel town, so the situation is calm now. UNHCR coordinated and led an interagency mission to the IDPs in Labado, Yassin locality, and reported that displaced families urgently needed food, emergency shelter, and non-food items. So far, UNHCR implementing partner, SRCS, has distributed NFI kits to support 393 households in Labado.

North Darfur authorities and UN agencies shared lessons learned on agricultural season activities: North Darfur Wali hosted a joint government/UN agency meeting to review activities carried out during the agricultural season, including those funded by Government and UN agencies. There has been an overall decline in incidents in North Darfur compared to the previous year, attributable to successful missions carried out by crop protection committees supported by UNHCR and FAO. As the season ends, relevant Government bodies will draft a work plan for follow-on activities in preparation for the next agricultural season. It is hoped that relevant UN agencies will take a comprehensive approach to support the agricultural season in North Darfur, and we can expand activities across the five Darfur states.

Refugee Protection

There is a **looming water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) emergency** in refugee-hosting states in Darfur. **Due to a lack of funding**, access to WASH services has been discontinued in East Darfur and parts of North and South Darfur. As a result, refugees in five (5) refugee settlements in East Darfur no longer have access to water since the partner exited. Additionally, in another four (4) locations in East Darfur, the main operational partners will leave at the end of March and August due to a lack of resources to continue implementing WASH activities. The operation needs additional funds to construct water facilities, drill boreholes, rehabilitate existing water infrastructure, and solarize and expand water systems to ensure the refugees have access to water and avert potential disputes with host communities over competition for the scarce water available.

UNHCR offices in El Fasher and Zalingei, together with COR, AHA, and the Ministry of Education, **conducted focus group discussions** with South Sudanese Refugee children, parents, and teachers to identify **challenges in accessing education**. Initial results indicate that school fees, the distance between settlements and schools, a lack of a school feeding program, school infrastructure, and child labour during harvest season are the main challenges affecting



Figure 1: Focus group discussion during the education assessment in Zalingei

refugees' access to education. These findings will guide the planning and implementation of UNHCR's education activities with MOE.

Using the **Global Distribution Tool (GDT)**, a UNHCR verification tool, UNHCR continued the distribution of cash for Personal Hygiene Kits (PHK) for refugee women of reproductive age in East Darfur, targeting **19,639 girls and women**.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and IDP Returnee Protection



Figure 2: Distribution of NFIs to the new IDPs

UNHCR implementing partner, SORR, worked with IOM to complete **joint distributions of NFIs to 2,300** conflict-affected households in Sirba and **300 households** in Kreneik, West Darfur. The distributions took place across nine locations in Sirba and also targeted affected host communities. Further cash-based interventions are planned to address unmet needs among the communities.

Following a workshop in December 2022 on the **North Darfur Durable Solutions Strategy**, UNHCR and UNDP (as co-chairs of the ADSWG) are leading an exercise to compile and consolidate data on IDP and refugee returns and integration in North Darfur. Based on a desk review of information from UN agencies, partners, and line ministries, we will identify areas in North Darfur that have witnessed successful returns and/or that may be conducive to future returns based on a number of criteria, including safety and security, access to basic services, and social cohesion. We will also seek further input from government partners and communities to identify potential locations where future area-based approaches to solutions could be feasible.

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