Fact Sheet on Mixed Movements

July to December 2022

In 2022, UNHCR Sudan continued to deal with the aftermath of the 2021 military coup and ensuing effects on staff turnover in different authorities. Capacity building efforts were amplified in the second half of 2022 so that new decision makers are well equipped in protection-sensitive mechanisms in their areas of work. Through UNHCR's capacity building efforts, the number of identified victims of trafficking increased dramatically in the second half of the year, enabling humanitarian partners to deliver targeted support to more victims.

Nevertheless, the increase in identified victims is a reflection of rising crime rates in Sudan, including organized crime. UNHCR has observed a steep rise in the number of incidents of trafficking in the second half of 2022 compared to the first half of the year, and communities report a reduced sense of safety. In the second half of 2022, UNHCR Sudan has supported 480 victims of trafficking with legal aid, CBI, NFIs and PSS, compared to 120 in the first half of the year.

In response, UNHCR Sudan will dedicate additional technical support to the Government of Sudan to address the safety and security of camps and continue capacity building to ensure that international protection is a primary consideration in responding to the needs of victims of trafficking. Support from donors will be crucial to fund essential protection programing in the camps, including self-reliance and livelihood activities to address key root causes of irregular onward movement.

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR has identified a **spike in the number of asylum-seeker and refugee VOTs** during the second half of 2022. Out of 600 VOTs identified, 480 were identified between July and December 2022 through the community and legal aid partners. This is coupled with an elevated sense of panic in the community about their risk of kidnapping and trafficking into Libya.
- In Khartoum, the legal partner Awatif and Associates **supported 1404 individuals who were arrested** during round-ups in the second half of 2022.
- UNHCR Gedaref facilitated a **roundtable discussion on refugee protectio**n in December 2022, relating to refugees in the state and facilitating joint actions with the Judiciary, Director of Public Prosecution, police, immigration officers and prison officials. The workshop resulted in a joint plan of action with identified focal points to enable expedited information sharing and response by relevant actors of law enforcement and the judiciary. UNHCR Gedaref is already seeing a rise in the number of incoming referrals from government entities on the basis of that plan of action.
- **Telling the Real Story** project volunteers in the Shagarab, Kilo 26, Wad Sharifey, and Girba Camps conducted **4845 household visits** reaching a cumulative total of **24,225 persons of concern**, this being 5000 children, 9980 youth and 9245 adults with information on the dangers of irregular onward movement, false narratives being spread by smugglers, and truthful information about the realities of the journeys facilitated by the smugglers.
- UNHCR Sudan aims to expand its operational footprint by strengthening case management efforts, establishing new services and working more closely with the GoS on system-strengthening efforts. Unfortunately, available funding for 2023 does not meet the strategic aims of UNHCR in the area of mixed movements. Additional funding will be needed to ensure continuation of service delivery and two-way information-sharing on trends and major issues.

KEY FIGURES

3,586

New arrivals in East Sudan

480

Victims of trafficking identified and referred for specialized services

7,205

Households reached with information on smuggling and onward movements in **East Sudan** through door-to-door visits in camps

400

Individuals reached with information on smuggling and onward movements in **Khartoum** through awareness raising at schools and sports activities

Commemoration of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence in Khartoum

Smartphones maintenance training and equipment handover to volunteers for Telling the Real Story

Progress towards strategic objectives

Strategic Objective 1: Protection Based Solutions for persons affected by mixed flows

UAC center in Shagarab Camp

- **680 unaccompanied children** were hosted in the Unaccompanied Children reception center in Shagarab Refugee camp during the reporting period, of which 301 arrived in the second half of 2022. During the same period, 293 unaccompanied children spontaneously departed the center. Three children were transferred to alternative care arrangements in the second half of 2022.
- ICRC visited the UAC center and distributed a variety of **NFIs to 132 residents** in the center.
- UNHCR continues to work with children in the center to raise awareness on risks associated with onward movement and to find alternative care for children hosted in the center.
- **185 individual counselling sessions, 199 group counselling session and 35 psychotherapy sessions** were conducted for children at the Centre. **26 Best Interest Determinations** were completed. **Family reunification procedures are ongoing for 22 children**, and **2 children were reunified** with their parents in third countries.
- UNHCR Sudan will prioritize child protection and youth programming in Kassala due to their importance to curbing dangerous onward movements out of Sudan. UNHCR Kassala plans to work in 2023 with children and their families to sustain the work started under the TRS and Family

Reunification Projects. In addition, Best Interest Procedures for Unaccompanied and Separated Children need to be scaled-up to ensure solutions are found for every child. Finally, more opportunities for youth should be provided through vocational training and community activities. Unfortunately, there are critical funding gaps in implementing said plans. With a situation of protracted and newly-arriving refugees, many of whom wish to engage in onward movements, funding needs to adequately address the needs of new arrivals while supporting the protracted caseload in sustaining a better life in Kassala.

Kassala Safehouse

- UNHCR continued to support the gender-segregated safe housing in Kassala, which hosted in total **82 victims of trafficking and aggravated smuggling and GBV survivors** in the second half of 2022, as they awaited trials of their perpetrators where they would appear as witnesses. Of these, 32 victims of trafficking arrived in the house between July and December 2022.

Legal aid

- Sudanese Organization for Development (SOD) provided **legal aid support to 812 individuals** in Kassala AOR, including legal representation in courts. As a result of effective advocacy, 293 asylum seekers charged with illegal entry were released and given access to COR registration.
- UNHCR Gedaref provided **direct assistance to 302 POCs who were intercepted** in various localities. The assistance ranged from court representations, psychological counselling, family reunification, medical assistance, and in-kind support
- In Khartoum, the legal partner Awatif and Associates **supported 1588 individuals in detention**. They include **184 victims of trafficking** in various locations. UNHCR also coordinated with other partners to ensure basic needs support and PSS to victims of trafficking in detention as well as advocacy for their release.

Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

- In Kassala, UNHCR surpassed allocated sub-quota for the USA with **600 individuals** submitted. The Office also met the sub-quota for Sweden of. Most cases were assessed and submitted under the resettlement submission categories of legal and physical protection needs, women and girls at risk, and survivors of violence and / torture.

Strategic Objective 2: Capacity Building, Partnership and Coordination

Capacity building workshops and trainings

- UNHCR Khartoum Field Office organized a **series of three workshops** in August 2022 around the topic of **refugee law and documentation**. 90 individuals from various agencies were trained, including law enforcement entities, administrative localities, government ministries and councils, legal aid service providers, INGOs, academics, journalists and UN agencies. The workshops aimed to train key interlocutors on legal aspects related to refugee issues in Khartoum. Sessions were dedicated to Trafficking in Persons and Mixed Movements. Through the workshops, participants were able to understand the application of international refugee law and national laws in their work, as well as provide first-hand recommendations on how it can be enhanced.
- Also in August 2022, UNHCR held a **workshop on Trafficking in Persons** in FAO5 locality, Gedaref state. It included members of law enforcement, judiciary and other relevant stakeholders. During the

workshop, discussion were held on data sharing between UNHCR and Government, areas of collaboration, sharing of the trends and border monitoring.

- In September, UNHCR and UNDP Kassala co-facilitated a **workshop on human rights standards**, international refugee law, UNHCR mandate and issue of trafficking in persons for 22 Kassala law enforcement officials who included judges, prosecutors, police officers and lawyers.
- UNHCR Gedaref facilitated a **roundtable discussion on refugee protection** in December 2022, relating to refugees in the state and facilitating joint actions with the Judiciary, Director of Public Prosecution, police, immigration officers and prison officials. The workshop resulted in a joint plan of action with identified focal points to enable expedited information sharing and response by relevant actors of law enforcement and the judiciary. UNHCR Gedaref is already seeing a rise in the number of incoming referrals from government entities on the basis of that plan of action.

Coordination

- **Coordination in Khartoum, Kassala and Gedaref states** continued in the second half of 2022, with the different technical working groups meeting to share updates, and plan joint activities and advocacy.
  - Khartoum Technical Working Group convened three times.
  - East Sudan Migration Working Group in Kassala convened three times.
  - Gedaref Mixed Migration Working Group convened three times.

Strategic Objective 3: Information Management, Advocacy & Awareness Raising

- UNHCR Representation Office in Khartoum, in collaboration with British Council, hosted a kickoff event for the **16 Days of Activism** on 26 November 2022. The event took place in Sobajo cultural center in Khartoum. The event showcased refugee capacities in art, music and filmmaking. The Office also collaborated with UNDP on International Volunteers Day, which took place on 9 December 2022. Within the event, one refugee volunteer gave a speech urging more organizations to rely on refugee capacities in delivering services to their beneficiaries. Both events were organized through the efforts of Telling the Real Story volunteers.
- The **Telling the Real Story** project in Kassala coordinated the commemoration of key international days such as the World Day against trafficking in persons, International Day of Peace, and the International Day for the abolition of slavery to enhance public awareness on issues related to smuggling, trafficking and modern-day slavery.
- TRS refugee community volunteers in the Shagarab, Kilo 26, Wad Sharifey, and Girba Camps conducted **4845 household visits** reaching a cumulative total of 24,225 persons of concern, this being 5000 children, 9980 youth and 9245 adults with information on the dangers of irregular onward movement, false narratives being spread by smugglers, and truthful information about the realities of the journeys facilitated by the smugglers. Under the project, **five capacity building workshops** were conducted for 120 participants in the different camps. The workshops covered key concepts around Trafficking in Persons, strategic prevention and response efforts.

Identified opportunities, gaps, and needs

- UNHCR welcomes the **formation of migration sub-committees by the Northern State Committee on Migration and Counter-Trafficking** in June 2022. UNHCR will prioritize working jointly with the Committee and providing technical support on working with refugees on the move.
- Despite extensive training efforts to the authorities, **high turnover of staff** requires continuous training on international protection for law enforcement and the judiciary. Following the training, UNHCR remains committed to working closely with the different officials and ensuring that there is a consistent application of protection principles in their efforts through strengthening SOPs and referral mechanisms.
- Training is not the only challenge for law enforcement. In the camps, law enforcement officers **lack the machinery and tools** to carry out effective patrol and response activities. Existing vehicles are either inoperable or lacking in fuel and accommodation facilities are dilapidated. This has a significant effect on crime rates in the camps, and UNHCR will continue to advocate for better equipment of law enforcement, at the national and state levels.
- The **encampment policy in Sudan** remains a major challenge to refugees in achieving self-reliance and also heightens the risk of trafficking in refugee settings, as refugees continue to resort to smugglers to move them from camps to urban areas.
- UNHCR Sudan aims to expand its operational footprint by **strengthening case management efforts, establishing new services and working more closely with the GoS on system-strengthening efforts**. Unfortunately, available funding for 2023 does not meet the strategic aims of UNHCR in the area of mixed movements. Additional funding will be needed to ensure continuation of service delivery and two-way information-sharing on trends and major issues.