

SUDAN SITUATION

2 May 2023



Malual Mayom Deng and family fled South Sudan in 2016 due to the civil war and have since been living as refugees in Khartoum. They have now fled back to their native South Sudan, where they are trying to make their way back to their area of origin in Northern Bahr El-Ghazal. Joda Border Crossing, South Sudan, 27 April 2023. © UNHCR/Charlotte Hallqvist

Operational Context

Clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continued for the 17th consecutive day on 1 May.

On 1 May, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi [tweeted](#) that UNHCR, with governments and partners, is preparing for the possibility that over 800,000 people may flee the fighting in Sudan for neighbouring countries.

On 2 May, in a press briefing in Geneva on 2 May, UNHCR [informed](#) that the agency and partners are scaling-up relief efforts as cross-border movements from Sudan increase, with an estimated 100,000 refugee and refugee returnee arrivals already.

On 1 May, Executive Director Cindy McCain [announced](#) that the World Food Programme (WFP) has lifted the temporary suspension of operations in Sudan. Food distribution is expected to commence in the states of Gedaref, Jazirah, Kassala, and White Nile in the coming days.

The Civil Aviation Authority announced that Sudan's airspace would remain closed until 13 May with the exception of aid and evacuation flights.

On 1 May, UN Secretary-General António Guterres [announced](#) the appointment of Clementine Nkweta-Salami of Cameroon as his Deputy Special Representative for Sudan with the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS). She will also serve as the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan succeeding Ms. Khardiata Lo N'Diaye of Senegal. Ms. Nkweta-Salami is currently the UNHCR Director of the Regional Bureau for the East, Horn and Great Lakes Regions of Africa.

On 30 April, the Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General [announced](#) that in light of the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Sudan, the Secretary-General was sending the Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Martin Griffiths, to the region immediately.

Regional Overview

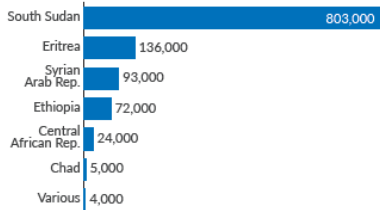
Following the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan on 15 April 2023, [growing numbers of refugees, returnees and third country nationals](#) have been crossing into neighbouring countries.

As of 28 April, the most significant cross border movements so far have been Sudanese refugees arriving in Chad and Egypt, and South Sudanese returning to South Sudan. Sudanese refugees have also arrived in the Central African Republic (CAR).

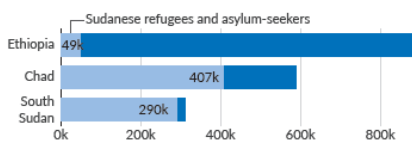
The main new arrivals to Ethiopia have been third country nationals, with some refugees also arriving, among which are small numbers of refugees previously hosted by Sudan and Ethiopia. UNHCR has not yet registered any refugees arriving in Libya.

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan by country of origin

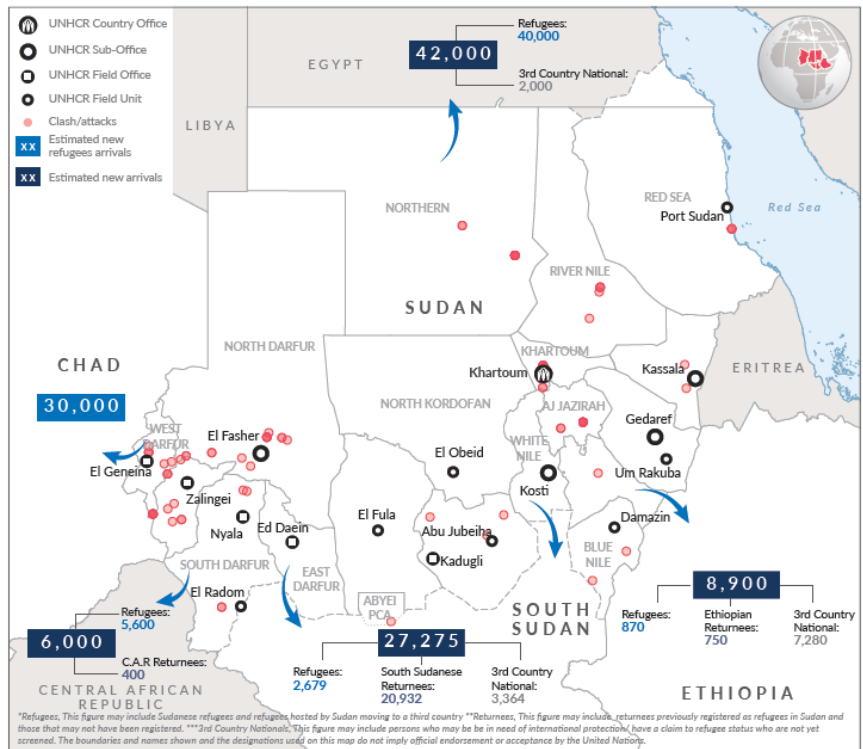
1.13 million existing refugee population in Sudan



Refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan neighboring countries



Sources: UNHCR, IOM, MFA, South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Updates by location

In Khartoum, significant refugee movement has been reported although some refugees have been unable to move due to the high cost of transportation. The South Sudanese Embassy provided several trucks for transportation to South Sudan from Khartoum. Based on the information available, this is on a voluntary basis and there is no indication of coercion or duress for refugees to move other than the current situation in Khartoum.

Communicating with communities is being strengthened in coordination with the Khartoum Field Office and the Regional Bureau.

In Gedaref, the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) has agreed for UNHCR international staff and partners to access the refugee camps. Following WFP's announcement on the resumption of operations in Sudan, UNHCR and WFP plan to start the distribution of in-kind food assistance on 3 May. UNHCR, in collaboration with COR, refugee leadership and partners, conducted sensitization in the camps on 2 May in preparation.

Following reports that approximately 1,500 people comprised of refugees, asylum-seekers and some Sudanese nationals had self-relocated from Khartoum to Um Gulja (a former refugee settlement in the State), UNHCR sent field teams to conduct registration and provide lifesaving assistance, while engaging WFP and NRC to provide food assistance and shelter. In response to reports that another 3,500 individuals have arrived in Medani (Al Jazirah State) in need of assistance, UNHCR will visit Medani to assess their situation.

In Kassala, the security situation is calm. However, partners have reported challenges such as access to cash, shortage of fuel, and a significant surge in prices of goods, which will affect the provision of critical lifesaving activities.

In Blue Nile, COR reported that it received information that some refugees were planning to go to the border areas, citing lack of assistance and food. Partners plan to visit the camp to verify the information.

In the Kordofan states, UNHCR and COR managed to visit the refugee settlement in Kadugli (South Kordofan) where refugees are anxious about food assistance. West Kordofan is presently calm, but fuel is not widely accessible in the market and food is becoming scarce.

In North Darfur, the UNHCR office lost contact with refugees in Al Lait presumably due to power outages.

In South Darfur, sporadic shooting was reported in the area close to the market and airport. Some traders have closed their shops and removed goods to take to their homes due to the insecurity in the market.

In East Darfur, the situation is calm but tense, although the movement of armed men has been observed. All services including health and water continue to be provided in the refugee camps.

SOUTH SUDAN

As of 1 May, a total of 27,275 individual have arrived in South Sudan, including 2,679 refugees from Sudan, 20,932 South Sudanese returnees, and 3,364 third country nationals. A joint RRC-UNHCR-IOM interactive border monitoring dashboard has been established: <https://bit.ly/SouthSudanBorderMonitoringDashboard>.

Updates on border points by location

Upper Nile State

- On 1 May, 3,505 individuals arrived at Joda border point and were registered by UNHCR and partner HDC (3,323 South Sudanese, 50 Eritreans, 58 Sudanese, 3 Somalis).
- In Paloich, UNHCR staff have started joint registration with the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) for 2,561 potential refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia. Based on an initial assessment this group does not have the financial means to continue to their planned destination

Juba, and also need water and food. UNHCR will rent additional buses in both Renk and Paloich to start transferring refugees in need of assistance to the Maban camps.

- In Malakal, the Commissioner of Manyo County and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) visited Kuek border on 30 April and reported a figure of approximately 20,000 individuals who intend to cross the border to Kuek but are stranded at Jore camp. On 1 May UNHCR undertook a mission to the border where no arrivals have been reported yet through the two border points of Kuek and Magenis. UNHCR is establishing transit centers in Wadakona and Kaka in anticipation of larger arrivals.

Unity State

- In Panakuach, on 29 April, UNHCR was informed about the arrival of 44 Eritrean refugees and asylum-seekers at Panakuach border point, of whom 29 were transported to the Lalob IDP camp and 15 of them were at Panakuach RRC office. On 30 April, UNHCR and partner Action Africa Help International (AAHI) transported the 15 Eritreans to Pamir refugee camp.
- In Panakuach, UNHCR has erected three tents, put up an additional Rakuba using plastic sheets, and hung a banner to enable returnees to identify the entry point easily for their registration.

Western Bahr el Ghazal State

- In Timsha, on 29 April, 178 returnees arrived at Timsha border in Raja County aboard five lorries from Al-Nimir Refugee camp in Darfur. They reported looting of their belongings on their way to South Sudan.
- On April 30, UNHCR staff on mission in Raja County returned to Raja town from Boro Medina border and reported the arrival of 172 individuals (majority children and youth), returnees from Nimir Camp in East Darfur. The journey with two trucks took 3-4 days with no security incidents cited. Most of them are from Raja, while a few intend to proceed to Wau.

Northern Bahr el Ghazal State

- In Majok Nyithiu, on 29 April, 19 returnees arrived at the border in Aweil East on foot from Alradom refugee camp in Darfur. Their final destination is Aweil East town. Additional six Sudanese arrived at Majok Nyithiu border from Kordofan. They reported their intention to stay in Aweil for safety.
- In Joch, 43 returnees arrived at Jach border point in Aweil North from Khartoum. Aweil town is their final destination.

Abyei Administrative Area

- In Amieth, on 29 April, four returnees arrived at Amieth border point from Khartoum Bhari and Omdurman. One family reported that they are proceeding to Juba. They reported harassment and extortion along the way in Sudan.
- On 29 April, the 70 Eritreans who arrived from Khartoum are reported to be proceeding to Juba. On 2 May, 23 individuals of Eritrean nationality arrived reported that at the border from Khartoum. They reported to be proceeding to Juba. They reported harassments and extortion by Mesaria Arab along the way to South Sudan border.
- A group of Eritreans who arrived on 29 April are still at the border. Some are staying in local lodges while others are being hosted by friends. UNHCR partner HCO is working to ascertain their asylum status while they were in Sudan and their intentions for stay in South Sudan.

Emergency Response in Renk

The clinic at the Transit Centre is completed, while clinic and latrines have also been installed at the at the border, where the Reception Center will be constructed. Water tanks are on the ground and construction of communal hangars started on 2 May.

On 29 April, UNHCR transported 89 households of 540 individuals from the border to the transit centre. IOM transported 16 households/100 individuals on hired minibuses. This brings the total number of returnees and asylum seekers transferred to the transit centre since 26 April to 3,026 individuals.

Public Health

As of April 30, two facilities have been established, one at the Transit Centre, and another at the border Reception Centre. The facilities are providing primary health care services and emergency referrals to Renk County Hospital.

Nutrition

Screening for malnutrition currently ongoing at both the Transit Centre and Reception Centre. Provision of Blanket Supplementary Feeding to pregnant and lactating women as well as to children under 5 currently ongoing. Treatment for malnutrition in children is ongoing.

WASH

A UNHCR water truck from Maban is currently providing water to the Transit Center and Reception Centre. At the Reception Centre, a 5,000 L water tank has been installed. At the Transit Centre, a bladder of 10,000 L capacity has been installed and is operational, as well as two 5,000 L water tanks.

Currently 16 existing latrines within the structure of the Transit Centre have been temporarily rehabilitated. Construction of 10 emergency latrines at the Transit Centre has begun through UNHCR partner ACTED. IOM are planning to construct 10 additional latrines. At the Reception Centre, UNHCR has constructed 10 emergency latrines.

Shelter

UNHCR is currently constructing 10 communal shelters to house the most vulnerable. Construction was initiated on April 29 and is due to be completed May 4th. At the Reception Centre, construction of various temporary structures including a waiting and screening area have been completed. Two Refugee Housing Units have been erected for partners Relief International and Save the Children to use for office space/activities. UNHCR mobilized heavy equipment for site clearance and levelling at the Transit Centre.

Food

Food is being provided at the Transit Centre through WFP partner GOAL. They are providing two meals per day, breakfast, and late lunch. In addition, a later meal is also being provided to late evening arrivals.

Distribution of Non-Food Items

UNHCR started the distribution of emergency core relief items to populations at the Transit Centre on 26 April. In total, four distributions have been conducted. The distribution consists of blankets, sleeping mats, and buckets. The distribution of mosquito nets is planned.

Protection

Basic general services are ongoing. JRS is providing psychosocial support to vulnerable individuals. Clinical GBV case management is ongoing through UNHCR partner Relief International. General protection monitoring is being organized. UNHCR is doing protection mainstreaming across all the sectors, with particular focus at the Reception Centre where Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) are identified and documented. A protection desk has been set up at the Transit Centre where protection concerns are currently documented, registered, and referred to relevant partners.

Child Protection

UNHCR Implementing partners are providing child protection services through case identification, documentation, and referral. LWF are also actively conducting community engagement activities and providing psychosocial support to vulnerable children. Play items have been delivered to the site and child-friendly spaces were completed on 2 May.

CHAD

UNHCR and the National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees (CNARR) monitoring missions estimate that 30,000 refugees fleeing violence have arrived in Chad since the beginning of the crisis in the provinces of Ouaddai, Sila, and Wadi Fira. New arrivals continue to be reported daily.

Between 29-30 April, 3,700 new arrivals were observed in the provinces of Sila and Ouaddai and 221 refugees in Tiné in Wadi Fira province. According to reports from refugees in Tiné, a significant number of families are on the way to Chad.

A total of 22,286 refugees have so far been verified and physically counted, as UNHCR continues the verification and pre-registration exercise. In addition, at the Hille-Hissein site, 1,982 Chadian returnees (400 households) were identified.

Key results (as of 1 May)

- 22,286 refugees received protection services.
- 6,410 refugees received Core Relief Items (UNHCR, UNICEF).
- 10,000 refugees have access to clean water through IRC and LMI (UNHCR partners), CARE, UNICEF interventions, in Koufroun and Midjiguita sites (Ouaddai Province).
- 7,500 refugees received food.
- 7,000 refugees received health services.
- 3,600 children were vaccinated.
- 400 children were screened of severe malnutrition .

Protection Monitoring

Protection monitoring (P21) was launched by UNHCR, data was collected in the villages of Hayal Salam, Koufroun, Labane Dafak, Dizé Berté, Midjiguita and Goungour, in Ouaddai province.

As of 30 April, 254 households had been interviewed, of which 91% said they had not encountered any difficulties in accessing the country of asylum. Although most households interviewed (85%) said they had not faced any protection threats since arriving in Chad, 11% said they had been physically attacked.

A total of 46% of households interviewed said that family members remained in Sudan and will travel to Chad once the situation allows. 54% of households have children of school age and 79% of them have children who were in school in Sudan. Although 35% of households say they have no documents, 38% have identity cards or other forms of ID and/or voter registration cards, and 21% have birth certificates.

Only 28% of households indicated that they had information on the services available, hence the need for additional information on the types of assistance. 20% of the households interviewed said they did not feel safe away from the community because of the risks of exposure to gender-based violence and 3% of the households said there were risks of GBV for girls and women.

53% of the households said they did not intend to return to Sudan even if the situation improved in the coming months and 88% said they felt integrated into the host community.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

In the Central African Republic, UNHCR estimates that approximately 9,686 individuals (6,230 refugees from Sudan and 3,456 CAR returnees) have crossed the border, where a UNHCR emergency team has been deployed. Registration of the new arrivals will start soon, and relocation assessments are underway to move people away from the border to more secure locations as proposed by the local authorities.

Since 24 April, people arriving from Sudan have been seen in Am Dafock, a small town located on the border between Sudan and CAR. Am Dafock is the main entry point of an otherwise very porous border. The road that connects Birao (Vakaga Prefecture CAR) to Nyala (South Darfur) is an important trade route.

New arrivals comprise Sudanese refugees as well as Central African refugees who have been living in camps in Sudan. As of 30 April, there were 24,000 refugees from CAR in Sudan.

An emergency team comprised of UNHCR, CNR and a few NGOs based in the area, travelled to the border on 29 April to meet new arrivals, start basic registration and address some of the immediate needs.

New arrivals in Am Dafock need protection and assistance, including shelter, food, health services and clean water. UNHCR and partners are preparing an emergency response to provide immediate coordinated response to the most urgent needs in Am Dafock and initial registration in collaboration with the Government authorities. UNHCR is also assessing the needs for relocation to Birao. An interagency mission is scheduled for 3 May.

There are minimal core relief items stock available in the area. UNHCR has stocks for 5,000 persons in Bangui. Logistical challenges will increase with the beginning of the rainy season.

IMC and ICRC, who have a presence in Birao, have supported the health centres, as well as access to water and basic relief items. ICRC donated medicines, two bladders (15,000 liters), and distributed jerrycans and plastic sheeting to those most in need amongst the new arrivals and returnees.

ETHIOPIA

Population movements

As of 2 May, some 8,900 individuals have entered Ethiopia, including 870 refugees from Sudan, 750 Ethiopian returnees and 7,280 third country nationals.

Screening and recording by the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and UNHCR is underway at the crossing points, including the identification of Ethiopian returnees, people with urgent medical needs and those with advanced resettlement processes.

Health response in Metema

The Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) has continued to provide emergency health care services to refugees and asylum-seekers at the Metema border. The Ethiopian Ministry of Health (MoH) is supporting the effort by deploying a team of 10 medical professionals and emergency medical kits.

A working space has been established in the compound of the Immigration and Border Service, with doctors, nurses, and a mental health expert attending to emergency medical cases. An ambulance is available to transport urgent medical cases to Gondar.

UNHCR is working with RRS and immigration officials to facilitate entry visas to enable them to proceed to Gondar or Addis Ababa.

Food and water response in Metema

UNHCR continues to provide food and water to the 13 Eritreans temporarily sheltered at the Kurmuk border pending their eventual transfer to a reception center. While the local authorities have arranged for their temporary accommodation, UNHCR provided some core relief items, including sleeping mats and blankets.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) continues to distribute High Energy Biscuits (HEB), water and sleeping mats to refugees, asylum seekers and Ethiopian returnees in Metema. ERCS has placed two water tanks next to the UNHCR/IOM registration centre and is also managing handwashing facilities. IOM is maintaining an existing water point to enhance access to running water.

Status of border and access to border areas

23 refugees including two holding refugee IDs, were held in detention in Metema for “irregularly” moving away from the border. Following advocacy by RRS, UNHCR, and OHCHR, they were all released on 30 April.

Both Kurmuk and Metema crossing points remain open.

Contingency planning and preparedness

In Metema, to decongest the border crossing point, IOM has installed a rub hall to accommodate new arrivals temporarily. However, the rub hall, which is located within the police station, is yet to have the necessary amenities, notably a water system, while existing latrines need some repair.

In Kurmuk, on 29 April, UNHCR jointly with RRS, other UN agencies, and implementing partners, visited two sites allocated by the local administration to be developed into reception and accommodation centers.

EGYPT

UNHCR is leading interagency coordination in collaboration with the Government of Egypt. Initial estimates of arrivals from Sudan have been revised upwards by the Government to 40,000 Sudanese refugees and 2,000 third country nationals from 50 countries as of 2 May.

Since 28 April, an inter-agency UN team based in Aswan and Abu Simbel, comprising of UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, WFP, WHO and the Resident Coordinator's Office, has been delivering first-response assistance through the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC).

Aid procured and currently being delivered includes water, hygiene and sanitary kits, wheelchairs, food and masks and gloves. The team has also worked to prepare the ground for a presence on the border with reinforced transport capacity.

UNHCR protection teams in Aswan and Abu Simbel have collected information on the needs and profiles of arriving Sudanese, to form the basis of UNHCR's registration and community-based protection response. Initial information gathered indicates that most new arrivals do not have the intention to return to Sudan and that arrivals anticipate the situation to deteriorate further.

It is planned that a UN team will travel to Argeen and Qustul, the two official border crossings, to assess the humanitarian situation and determine modalities for the provision of assistance. All the required formalities are currently being undertaken by the government for the UN mission to go ahead. No time frame can be confirmed at this point but it is expected soon.

The need for cash has been highlighted and is recommended to be used as a response modality across sectors, including for transport, and to the extent the market allows.

The influx and needs at the Sudanese-Egyptian borders are rapidly increasing by the day with significant delays reported at the two border points in the processing of the new arrivals. Major humanitarian concerns are noted both in the area between the Egyptian and Sudanese borders ("no man's land") and on the Sudanese side. The Egyptian authorities reaffirm that the border with Sudan is and will remain open. However, the UN and partners have identified delays at the border as a major concern.

The UN is prepared to work with the Government of Egypt to enhance border management and contribute to its overall refugee response in the context of the Global Compact on Refugees.

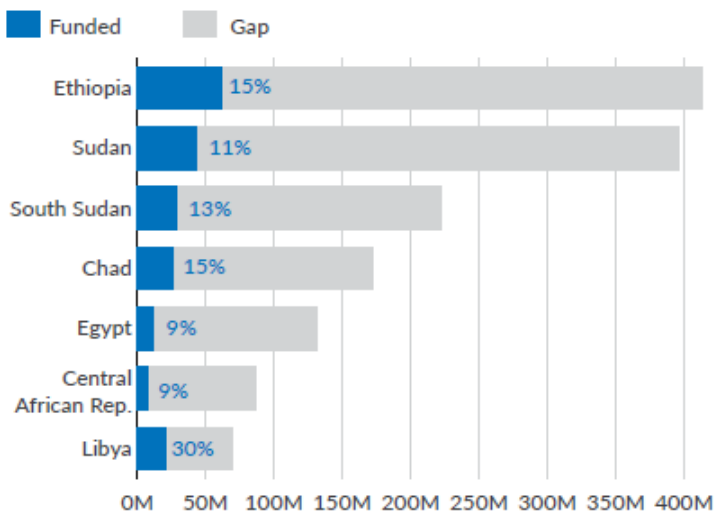
Key Messages from the United Nations in Sudan (as of 28 April 2023)

- The UN strongly condemns the outbreak of fighting and appeals to the leaders of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces to immediately cease hostilities, restore calm and begin a dialogue to resolve the crisis.
- Any further escalation of violence could be devastating for the country and the region.
- The UN welcomed the 72-hour ceasefire, brokered by the United States, and calls on the parties to pursue a permanent end to the fighting.
- The UN calls on all parties to protect civilians and to refrain from attacks on schools and healthcare facilities. All parties must remind their fighters of their obligations under international law to ensure the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure.
- The people of Sudan urgently need a humanitarian pause. Aid must reach the millions in need.
- People must be able to access food, fuel, medicines and other critical supplies and services.
- People trying to flee and access assistance should be able to do so safely.
- The Secretary-General will continue to use his good offices, in close coordination with partners, to deescalate tensions and establish a lasting ceasefire.
- Member States are urged to use maximum leverage with the parties to call for de-escalation and to support efforts to end the violence, restore order, and return to the path of transition.

- The UN welcomes increased regional political engagement and stands ready to work with partners, including as part of the Trilateral Mechanism comprised of the AU, IGAD and UN to advance peace and a lasting, inclusive and democratic settlement.
- The UN calls for women’s full and meaningful participation to restore the democratic transition and build a peaceful, secure future.
- The UN thanks neighbouring countries for continuing to keep their borders open to those fleeing Sudan - whether to seek international protection or to return to their countries of origin.
- The UN is concerned about the increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence.
- All parties must remind their fighters of their obligations under international law to ensure the safety and security of all UN and associated personnel and their premises and assets.
- The UN calls for thorough and independent investigations into the killings of civilians, including three staff of the UN’s World Food Programme, along with other reported violations. Those responsible must be held to account.
- The UN is not leaving Sudan. We have reconfigured our presence to protect our personnel and their families while staying and delivering support to the Sudanese people.
- The Special Representative of Secretary-General will remain in Sudan. Under his leadership, we are establishing a UN hub in Port Sudan so we can continue to work with our partners in support of peace and to alleviate suffering. Our commitment is to the Sudanese people, in support of their wishes for a peaceful and secure future.

UNHCR Budget and Funding

Budget requirements and funding for Sudan and surrounding countries | in million US\$



*Note: UNHCR will launch an **Interagency Regional Refugee Response Plan** that will include financial needs. We are discussing details with partners in each country and plan to publish the appeal as soon as possible.*

The [2023 Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) was launched by the UN and humanitarian partners in December 2022 to provide humanitarian assistance and support to 12.5 million internally displaced persons, people who have returned to their places of origin, refugees hosted by Sudan, and other vulnerable Sudanese groups with total requirements of USD 1.7 billion, of which only 13.5% was funded as of 25 April 2023.

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