

SUDAN SITUATION

15 – 18 May 2023



Mohammed, a refugee from Afghanistan, was a media student in Sudan when conflict broke out and he had to flee. As he wishes to start a new life in Ethiopia, he still hopes that one day he will be able to retrieve his university certificate. © UNHCR/Lucrezia Vittori

Highlights

Fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have entered the second month and has already displaced more than 840,000 people inside Sudan, adding to 3.7 million already internally displaced before this conflict. Over 220,000 refugees and refugee returnees have fled the country, with many Sudanese seeking protection in Chad and Egypt, and South Sudanese refugees returning to their country of origin in adverse conditions. Refugees and refugee returnees are also arriving in the Central African Republic and Ethiopia.

On 17 May, UNHCR and OCHA issued a joint press release: [UN calls for USD 3 billion to rush life-saving aid and protection to people impacted by the Sudan crisis](#), detailing the requirements of the revised Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan, and the Regional Refugee Response Plan for outflows to neighboring countries.

The European Union's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations announced it has stepped up its [humanitarian assistance](#) to help those most in need.

Resources

- The UNHCR *Operational Data Portal* (ODP) for the Sudan Situation is an information and data sharing platform, which provides daily updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan's neighbouring countries: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation>
- The UNHCR *HELP site for refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan* provides information to individuals seeking information or support inside Sudan (in [English](#) and [Arabic](#)).

OVERVIEW: Countries neighbouring Sudan impacted by this new emergency are already hosting large refugee and internally displaced populations. The majority remain severely underfunded. Hosting countries will need additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance. Initial assessments show that the new asylum-seekers, refugees, refugee returnees and other arrivals' most urgent needs identified to date are water, food, shelter, health, and core relief items. In terms of protection, the current priority activities are the registration of new arrivals and ensuring that mechanisms are in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and ensure alternative care services for unaccompanied refugee children.

 **248,299**
Estimated newly arrived individuals

 **186,542**
Total newly arrived refugees/asylum seekers

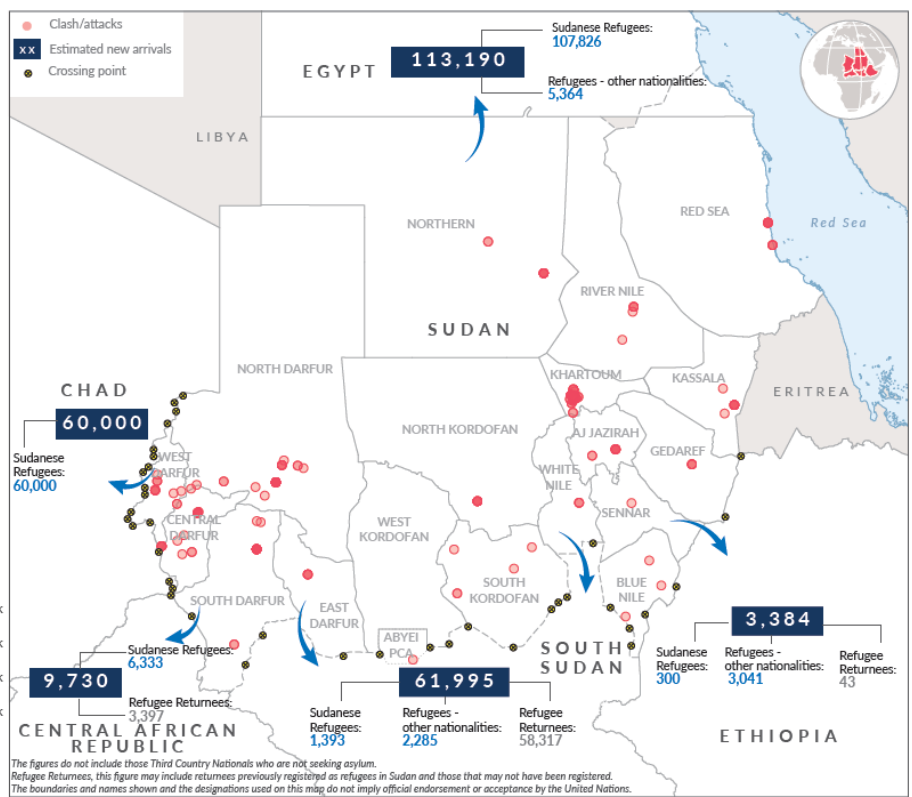
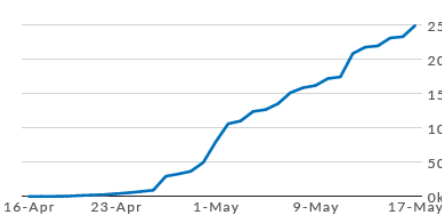
Arrivals by population type

Sudanese Refugees - 175.9k Refugees - other nationalities - 10.7k Refugee Returnees 61.8k

Estimated gender breakdown of new arrivals

Female 57% Male 43%

Arrival trends



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Situation and operational response

UNHCR's crisis response plan for Sudan is planning for 1.2 million new internal displacements. IOM DTM reports 843,130 individuals (168,354 households) have already been displaced internally as a result of the conflict.

UNHCR is planning for approximately 129,000 secondary displacements of refugees. According to the Sudanese Commission for Refugees (COR), some 87,000 refugees hosted by Sudan are thought to have been secondarily displaced within Sudan. This includes 74,000 South Sudanese refugees arriving in White Nile, 10,000 Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees in the east (Gedaref and Kassala), 6,000 refugees of various nationalities in Jazirah, and 300 South Sudanese refugees in West Kordofan.

UNHCR and partners continue to trace these movements and are conducting verification and providing reception assistance, while working on expanding the existing camps and settlements as needed.

The security situation is still tense and volatile, with Khartoum and western Darfur being epicenters of conflict in the country.

On 17 May, UNHCR received reports that the Representation Office in Khartoum was looted and that a warehouse south of the city was surrounded by armed men attempting to break in.

The situation in eastern Sudan has been relatively calm, with some civil unrest in Port Sudan.

The situation in western Darfur remains extremely volatile, with El Geneina (West Darfur) being the epicenter of clashes until 16 May when violent clashes were also reported in Zalengei (Central Darfur) between RSF and SAF.

General operational updates

UNHCR is organizing missions together with OCHA and IOM to the Sudan-Egypt border to assess the humanitarian situation and response options, and to Medani to assess possibilities of establishing an operational hub there.

UNHCR has dispatched eight trucks of core relief items (CRI) such as tents, kitchen sets, mosquito nets and plastic sheets) to White Nile State from warehouses in Sudan. Plastic sheeting will also be dispatched to Kassala (5,738 pcs) and Gedaref (5,000 pcs). As of 14 May, out of 17 containers containing CRIs, which arrived in Port Sudan on 2 May, four have reached the free zone and will be offloaded, while the remaining 13 containers were anticipated to reach the free zone on 16 May.

Three protection hotlines and one GBV-specific line are in operation to improve information access, complaint handling, and feedback mechanisms. A total of 81 phone calls, 80 on general protection and 1 on GBV incidents were received between 7 to 11 May from various locations in Sudan: Khartoum (28); Port Sudan (20); Kassala (16); Medani (5); Kosti (1); and Argeen border with Egypt (1). About 80% of the callers were Sudanese fleeing conflict who have become internally displaced persons. They mainly inquired about the possibility of seeking asylum outside Sudan and visa formalities for the neighboring countries, as well as safe routes out of Sudan. Questions posed by refugees mainly focused on general protection and service accessibility as well as specific individual or case-related concerns. All general inquiries received tailored responses, and when necessary, referrals were made to various focal points for additional targeted or specialized interventions.

Updates by location

Khartoum

In Khartoum, South Sudanese refugee populations on the perimeter of Khartoum state, such as in Bantiu open area, who were previously in more stable locations, now face insecurity following reports of military activities in Jebel Awlia locality. UNHCR also received reports that a large population of South Sudanese refugees from Nivasha open area have fled to Kosti or further to South Sudan. UNHCR also received concerns among the Eritrean population remaining in Khartoum that they face lack of access to cash from the diaspora as the hawala systems are not working.

Kassala

An attack and attempted kidnapping of refugees who had gone to work as laborers on farms near the Shagarab camps has created anxiety among refugees, with many people being apprehensive about leaving the camps to find part-time jobs in the host communities. They fear being abducted by organized criminal groups involved in human trafficking. Community volunteers from the "Telling the Real Story" Project are conducting outreach activities on the prevention of smuggling and trafficking in Shagarab, Kilo 26, Girba, Abuda and Wad Sharife camps. The activities are conducted in marketplaces, primary healthcare facilities, schools, women development centers, youth center and community centers. Messaging focuses on understanding irregular movement, smuggling and trafficking in persons, methods of recruitment used by criminal networks and their emissaries, disguises used by smugglers and traffickers, methods used to control victims, and how to avoid becoming a victim of trafficking.

UNHCR's legal aid partner, Mutawinat, reported that a new fee of up to 320,000 SDG has been imposed on refugees in the locality where Shagarab 1-3 and Abouda camps are located for obtaining new or renewing commercial licenses. As a result, some refugees had little choice but to close their shops because they were unable to pay the newly imposed fees. This is further expected to affect livelihood opportunities and socio-economic integration of refugees during this crisis.

Simultaneously, job opportunities in the camps are becoming scarcer, exacerbating the hardship facing refugees and asylum seekers, forcing some to resort to mendicancy and other negative coping strategies. Refugees and asylum seekers told UNHCR that before the conflict, they had access to part-time jobs in the camps that allowed them to support their families. Jobs have become scarce because employers lack access to cash and/or have been forced out of business because of the current situation and the rise in prices. Single women who are disproportionately in vulnerable situations, are reportedly resorting to survival sex in the camps.

Moreover, refugees who used to work in host community farms informed UNHCR that landowners and other business owners involved in firewood collection no longer come to the camp to look for casual laborers. In addition, considering that the means of transferring money remain inoperative, many people who were relying on remittances are now seeking help from other refugees and asylum seekers.

Gedaref

On 17 May, UNHCR and COR relocated 66 refugees and asylum-seekers from Medani in Jazirah State to Um Gargour refugee camp in Gedaref State. Relocation to Tunaydbah and Shagarab camps had to be postponed. Teams are on standby in all three locations to receive the newly relocated individuals and provide them with assistance, including hot meals, shelter and core relief items such as blankets, jerrycans and mattresses.

In Um Gargour, NRC is pitching tents to accommodate the newly relocated refugees and asylum seekers, ZOA is providing them with hot meals and ALIGHT is present to address any potential protection issues. Moreover, CARE has set up two bladders and emergency sanitation facilities. Work on the construction of communal latrines and the pipeline for the water network will start on 21 May, to put in place more sustainable WASH infrastructure for this population. UNHCR is coordinating with WFP for the distribution of food to the newly relocated as soon as possible. UNHCR anticipates that approximately 3,000 people will be hosted in Um Gargour after the relocation.

UNHCR protection team is finalizing preparations for conducting the annual participatory assessment in the camps. A session took place on 18 May to train the multifunctional teams, which include partner staff, to conduct the thematic focus group discussions with refugees and key informant interviews, including with host community leaders.

In Um Gulja, as of 14 May, 4,024 self-relocated persons had been registered. Of this number, more than 57% (2,320 individuals) are Eritrean refugees and asylum-seekers, over 41% (1,674 individuals) Ethiopian refugees and asylum-seekers, less than 1% are Somali (20), as well as (9) South Sudanese refugees, and (10) Sudanese IDPs. Ethiopian refugees will be relocated to Tunaydbah, Um Rakuba, Um Gargour. The Eritreans will be relocated to Um Gargour and the Shagarab camps in Kassala state. UNHCR teams conducted an information campaign on 15 May to inform the refugees and asylum seekers about the upcoming relocation which is tentatively planned for 19 May.

In Tunaydbah, a previous assessment had indicated that there were a number of empty plots and shelters. In view of this, the refugees who have arrived at the camp and those who are currently in Medani could be accommodated in these vacant plots. A follow-up assessment will be conducted to confirm the number of available plots.

Food assistance has been provided to 8,678 households / 21,816 individuals, including, 415 households / 588 Ethiopians and 37 households / 116 Eritreans, who had arrived from Khartoum as well as 31 households / 57 Ethiopians who had self-relocated from Damazine.

UNHCR together with COR and local authorities visited Tunaydbah village to hand over the women's centre that was recently completed by UNHCR for the host community as part of efforts to support local initiatives and

promote peaceful co-existence. The centre aims to promote women's rights and participation in peacebuilding while serving as a safe space where women can seek peer support.

In Um Rakuba, food assistance was distributed to 7,564 households / 16,181 individuals, including 175 newly arrived refugees from Khartoum and other areas.

UNHCR has received a report regarding the tragic suicide of a 14-year-old refugee child in Tunaydbah. The incident has been reported to the police, who are currently conducting an inquiry. The protection and public health teams are looking at the possibility of scaling up psychosocial support in the camps to help refugees cope with the stress of the current situation.

White Nile

Refugees secondarily displaced mainly from Khartoum continue to arrive in the White Nile State. The security committee in Al Salam locality expressed concern about overcrowding in Um Sangour camp.

UNHCR continues to conduct registration/verification of refugees secondarily displaced. As of 17 May, a total of 24,249 individuals (4,583 households) have been verified after nine days of verification activities in both Um Sangour and Alagaya refugee camps. Previously unregistered refugees in this group account for 65% while the remaining 35% are found to be refugees already registered by COR in Khartoum. Preparations also continue with the government to establish a new refugee settlement at Abu Dolou to reduce strains on the existing camps.

UNHCR also observed organized movements from the refugee camps to the Joda border point to South Sudan. The convoys involve mostly South Sudanese who were not registered refugees in Khartoum and are leaving voluntarily.

Examinations for primary school are ongoing, with about 700 among the secondarily displaced refugees who have registered being eligible to take the exam. Some 400 of them were found to be registered in Khartoum, with the remaining 300 unregistered.

WFP continues to conduct food distribution in the camps. On 14 May, six commercial trucks loaded with WFP food items were ambushed by unidentified armed men on the road to Um Sangour and Khor Alwarel refugee camps. In exchange for safe passage, the perpetrators forcefully offloaded four bags of sorghum from each truck. The matter has been raised with security forces in the state and UNHCR has requested for security to be strengthened along the routes to the camps.

Blue Nile

UNHCR, ACTED and COR teams had to leave the camp mid-visit on 15 May after receiving threats from agitated groups of refugees reportedly due to delayed food distribution. The last food distribution was conducted in March and refugees were adamant about not allowing the implementation of other activities unless and until food is distributed. As a result of this incident, a number of key activities had to be halted, particularly the handover of 42 completed tukuls (shelters) to refugee families, the allocation of land plots, and distribution of tents and NFI kits to the newly registered refugees. UNHCR and WFP continue to liaise on the delayed food distribution.

UNHCR legal aid partner, Mutawinat, provided legal representation for two refugees (involving personal and criminal law) and visited the police station in Village 4 of Wad Al Mahi as part of regular detention monitoring.

UNHCR convened the protection sector working group meeting attended by 10 agencies, focusing on capacity mapping in relation to addressing the needs of IDPs displaced as a result of previous intercommunal conflict in 2022 and the current conflict, gaps, constraints and updates from the partners.

UNHCR also convened the Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items working group meeting with 8 agencies focusing on ongoing and planned interventions in Blue Nile and Sennar States as result of IDPs displaced by intercommunal conflict in 2022 and the ongoing conflict, considering available stocks of NFI kits and constraints.

In the Kordofan states, Save the Children has indicated it has a small number of relief items available in its warehouses that can be distributed to the most vulnerable families among the new refugee arrivals.

West Kordofan

Following the recent deterioration in the security situation and reported sporadic gang activities in the absence of law enforcement, UNHCR is receiving reports from South Sudanese refugees in the Kharasana settlement that periodic shooting and deliberate lootings continue to happen almost daily.

On 17 May, a Community Based Protection Network (CBPN) member reported that the Kharasana settlement was attacked by an unidentified number of armed men. The perpetrators fired guns, injured one male refugee, and looted belongings from some households including plastic sheets, kitchen sets, and others.

In the Shendi Fouk area of El Fula, a South Sudanese refugee was reportedly shot in the arm and injured after resisting unidentified armed perpetrators who attempted to loot his phone. The refugee has received medical attention. Given the deterioration of the security situation, South Sudanese refugees have raised concern about their safety. UNHCR is coordinating with COR and police in this regard.

South Kordofan

The situation remains tense following clashes between SPLA/M Al Hilu faction elements exchanging gunfire with a group of Arab Hawazma in Al Dalaiba village.

UNHCR received reports that 26 South Sudanese refugee households of 70 individuals have arrived in Abu Jubayhah from Khartoum.

On 14 May, UNHCR, COR and the South Sudanese refugee community leaders conducted a joint visit to various refugee hosting areas to verify the new South Sudanese refugee arrivals from Khartoum. The team managed to visit a total of five refugee hosting areas within Kadugli town and verified a total of 33 households of 175 individuals, mostly women and children, staying in Kadugli.

Furthermore, refugee community leaders reported that an estimated additional 78 households of new arrivals fleeing Khartoum are reported in other four different areas within Kadugli including an estimated number of 25 households in Tagato (junction) area of Ar Reif Ash Shargi locality.

North Kordofan

The Humanitarian Aid Commission reports that 2,532 households of 12,964 individuals have arrived in the state from Khartoum, comprising a mixed population, majority of which are Sudanese nationals. Plan International is supporting some of the arrivals with Non Food Items (NFIs) and emergency shelter and is currently conducting an interagency assessment.

North Darfur

The situation had been relatively stable and quiet until the morning of 18 May when heavy shooting was reported.

South Darfur

The situation is growing dire as refugees in five settlements have not received food assistance. Health services have stopped, particularly in Beliel refugee settlement, due to the looting of Norwegian Church Aid's primary health care center. In Al Radoum locality, the situation is relatively calm. UNHCR received reports that South Sudanese refugee families were seen departing on two trucks heading to Katta locality in South Sudan.

UNHCR also received reports of the death of 17 children in the Kalma IDP camp in a week. The health sector is looking into the cases, but IDPs report that the deaths were caused by lack of drugs and nutrition supply. The primary healthcare center in Kalma IDP camp has ceased operating due to shortage of medicine. Overall, the health situation in South Darfur is deteriorating due to the shortage of drugs.

Police have requested all UN agencies to officially report the looted items from their facilities, as the police has reportedly started to arrest individuals trying to sell laptops, computers, and other items looted from UN agencies.

On 11 May, a native administration-led initiative for communal coexistence was concluded in Nyala town. The document was handed over to the Wali on 16 May by the native administrative leadership. It contains many pledges that are said to be honored by the 80 tribes from Gereida, Buram, Tulus, Umdafuk and Alsalam localities whose representatives signed the document entitled: *Together to stop war and together towards peace*.

Movement of civilians from Um Dafoug into the Central African Republic (CAR) for fear for their safety has been reported.

West Darfur

The situation has dramatically deteriorated. As a result of intense clashes between armed Arab and Masalit communities, the humanitarian adviser to the Wali's office reports that at least 543 have been killed and 375 injured as a result of the fighting. There are efforts to evacuate the injured from Geneina to Chad, but the city is reportedly under blockade. Reportedly, there are no functioning hospitals and electricity cuts in addition to shortage of water and food.

Amid reports of gender-based violence, particularly rape, and a lack of PEP kits, UNHCR through the protection sector is coordinating with the GBV sub-sector for follow up as survivors are urgently in need of medical assistance.

East Darfur

The security situation remains calm. However, due to increased banditry in the state, UNHCR's partner, State Ministry of Health, stopped using the 4x4 vehicles donated by UNHCR due to fears of being targeted by criminals. This has impacted the referral process as they are unable to transport patients to medical facilities.

WFP together with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society completed the food distribution in Al Nimir refugee camp and Assalaya refugee settlement.

On 17 May, UNHCR staff members went to the office in Ed Daein where the premises were found in good condition and no security incidents were reported.

Central Darfur

Rapid escalation of fighting between RSF and SAF was reported as heavy clashes erupted on 16 May. Reportedly, the situation had calmed by the evening of 17 May.

SOUTH SUDAN

On 17 May, 419 households / 1,639 individuals arrived in South Sudan. The cumulative number of arrivals recorded as of 17 May increased to 11,474 households / 62,559 individuals including (South Sudanese returnees (93.2% / 58,317 individuals); Sudanese (2.2% / 1,393 individuals); Eritrean (2.1% / 1,332 individuals); and others including Somalis (2.4% / 1,517 individuals).

A total of 80.8% / 50,545 individuals crossed through Joda/Renk in Upper Nile State, around 5.7% / 3,559 individuals through Panakuach in Unity State/Ruweng Administrative Area, around 4% / 2,531 individuals through Abyei Amieth in Abyei, while 9.5% / 5,924 individuals through the other 13 border-crossing points.

UNHCR and partners continue to receive new arrivals, provide assistance to the most vulnerable, pursue options to facilitate onward transportation to areas of return, and conduct screening to identify refugees and asylum seekers. The situation in Renk continues to be of great concern with tens of thousands of South Sudanese returnees and smaller numbers of refugees and asylum seekers stranded awaiting transportation by boat, road or air, depending on their intended destinations.

Upper Nile State

Renk

New arrivals: As of 17 May, 50,545 individuals had arrived and been recorded at the Joda border point.

New arrivals are staying longer at the reception center at the Joda border crossing point due to the temporary suspension of transportation to the transit centre in Renk following a security incident on 15 May. For the vulnerable households who are stranded, there is need to provide food assistance. There is an on-going measles vaccination at the border point by the Payam health authorities with support from GOAL.

Transit Centre: The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) has started the registration of South Sudanese returnees by state, to facilitate their onward movement.

Refugees and asylum-seekers: UNHCR conducted a mobile exercise in Renk town to register asylum-seekers and refugees ready to go to the refugee camps in Maban. On 17 May, 40 households / 50 individuals were registered. A total of 515 households / 794 individuals have expressed their will to go to the camps. The operation plans to transport over 200 individuals with three buses and three trucks to Maban on 19 May.

Protection: UNHCR reviewed the activities of the protection partner at the transit centre and identified a gap in female staff presence to attend to specific female cases, which will be addressed. The Protection team will also increase the awareness of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and fraud prevention at the transit centre through dissemination of posters.

Site management: Mapping of facilities at the transit centre was completed, while the development of camp layout map is in progress. NRC has extended timelines for water trucking to the transit centre until 28 May while Solidarity will extend until 30 May. The construction of 6 stance latrines was completed at the transit centre.

Coordination: Humanitarian Heads of Agencies and the County Authority met to discuss the government proposal to promote multiple transit centers in which it was decided that the issue would be escalated to Juba for guidance.

RRC shared information on the approval of the use of cargo flights for the onward transportation of returnees by the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs. Air departures from Renk will prioritize returnees from greater Bahr el Ghazal.

Paloich

Government authorities estimate there are about 3,000 South Sudanese returnees and an unknown number of refugees and asylum seekers seeking to relocate to Juba camping at the privately owned Paloich airport. The government has identified a new location where they started transferring returnees and refugees on 18 May. The authorities indicated that the site will not be a camp but a temporary transit location where people will wait for their flights. Once the current population has left the site, the authorities plan to bring more people from Renk to transfer them to different places in South Sudan.

The government is providing 27 temporary shelters, water, food and security. Humanitarian agencies were asked to make contributions in their respective sectors.

The number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Paloich interested in moving to Maban camps remains very low. UNHCR and CRA will meet with the County Commissioner to discuss the situation of refugees not willing to be transferred.

Malakal

Population movement to Malakal: Cumulatively, 1,618 households / 7,878 individuals have arrived at Malakal since the beginning of the influx from Sudan, most of whom came through Renk.

Some of the returnees have onward destinations and are only waiting for transportation support. Others no longer have homes to go back to and are willing to rebuild in Malakal, if given land. Some Sudanese refugees expressed wanting to go back to Khartoum as soon as it is safe.

Registration: There are six registration desks operated by RRC enumerators (hired from among the returnees) and IOM volunteers who are supervised by RRC representatives. Present onsite are IOM, UNICEF, and several

NGO partners. Among the new arrivals, persons with specific needs (PSN) are identified through protection desks managed by DRC, HDC and UNHCR, then referred for relevant services including protection, health and family reunification.

Coordination: The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan (RC/HC) a.i. and UNHCR Representative visited Malakal on 18 May and visited the reception site, several IDP sites and the government proposed relocation site for both returnees and IDPs.

They engaged in dialogues with the government emergency response committee, returnees, refugees and IDPs, and other humanitarian actors on the ground, with the following outlined:

- Reception site/Malakal Port: Humanitarian response should be contextualized based on needs, not a one-size-fits-all approach. Creative solutions should also be considered to prevent creating camp-like structures. Urgent needs, such as sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets, and plastic sheets will be provided while the next steps are still being discussed with the government. It is also noted that cash for protection will be carried out in town, not at the reception site. The humanitarian community will do its best to support, but some of the longer-term solutions may take a bit more time. In the meantime, it is important for the returned communities to be self-organized for information sharing across communities to also ensure a peaceful environment.
- Existing IDP sites: Recent IDPs from Jonglei at Dengirisufu/former Waystation, stressed the need for food and shelter, and the lack of humanitarian support since they arrived, almost five months ago. They pointed out that insecurity drove them to Malakal. If they would be given land to cultivate, they would resume farming and support themselves. Other IDPs have been displaced for almost three years. They acknowledged the humanitarian support received but requested to move to the allocated site (Hai Salaam) to be able to start cultivating.

[Unity State | Ruweng Administrative Area](#)

Panakuach

UNHCR, IOM and partners in Panakuach are coordinating at the border to receive, register and transfer new arrivals, with a total of 3,559 arrived as of 17 May. The majority of arrivals through Panakuach are South Sudanese returnees who originate from Unity State. Among those arriving in recent days were four youth with injuries including one with a bullet shot from Khartoum. There were seven children with acute diarrhoea and acute upper respiratory infections. All were referred for immediate medical attention by IRC.

There is a need for psychosocial support and female staff to support GBV response as arrivals reported incidents by armed elements during their flight. Further needs have been flagged including water, medicines, screening shade, crowd management, latrines and methods of communication with the new arrivals.

[Northern Bahr El Ghazal State](#)

UNHCR's Assistant Representative for Protection and the Deputy Commissioner for Refugees Affairs, accompanied by State RRC Deputy Chairperson and IOM, visited the Kiir Adem border point in Aweil North. During the visit, the team observed that the population has significantly reduced compared to previous visits. Some of the asylum seekers and returnees the team spoke to reported that most people have moved into the market where there are shelters, in fear of rain, others reportedly crossed back to Sudan in search of food, others went fishing and collecting of wild fruits while others went to Aweil town.

New arrivals reported issues such as robbery and high transportation fees on their way to South Sudan.

Relocation: The RRC reported that the State government mobilized ten trucks to transport the asylum seekers from Kiir-Adem to Watwil, the government designated site for a transit center. Relocation priority has been given to asylum seekers. The first 8 trucks carried 240 asylum seekers while the last 2 trucks carried 60 individuals, including refugee returnees who insisted to embark on the trucks.

Coordination and Response: IOM, UNICEF and partners will repair two boreholes in vicinity of the transit centre site and water will be available on 19 May. WFP will provide hot meals for three days. If no other solution is found, UNHCR will distribute kitchen sets to the refugees and 20% most vulnerable returnees. UNHCR and World Vision

will follow up on protection cases and vulnerable individuals. UNHCR is in touch with WHO to support with a mobile clinic.

Western Bahr El Ghazal State/Raja County

A joint UNHCR/CRA team reached Raja town on 18 May and held meetings with County Executive Director as well as with RRC and Hold the Child Organization (HCO). The meeting discussed the deployment and coordination of enumerators at the borders of Timsha and Boromedina where HCO is facing staffing issues for border monitoring.

The joint UNHCR/CRA team in Raja was planning to register a group of 13 households / 69 individuals – asylum-seekers from Bambuti in CAR, but they were informed that the group left Raja for Wau.

UNHCR is meeting with potential operational partners to assess capacity to respond to the situation in Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal States. NGOs are generally responsive but expressed limitations since they have already engaged mobile teams in Renk and Malakal.

Abyei Administrative Area

New arrivals: Returnees through the Amiet border in Abyei include people coming by car from Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahari. They mentioned high taxes at check points while crossing to South Sudan and expressed intention to go to Wau. Several Sudanese as well as Somali asylum-seekers from Khartoum expressed their intention to go to Juba. Several Eritreans also came through the Amiet border by car from Khartoum joining several other Eritrean nationals waiting in Amiet for a response to their request to enter on visas rather than seek asylum.

CHAD

Nearly 60,000 people are estimated to have fled to Chad since the beginning of the crisis in Sudan, including a recent influx of approximately 30,000 people. The needs of the 20 partners in Chad for the Sudan emergency response total USD 130 million.

The implementation of the refugee relocation plan started on 15 May, and new shelters have been constructed in existing camps in eastern Chad to allow the relocation of 1,000 newly arrived refugees.

Registration

As of 17 May, the total number of refugees counted across the three regions of Wadi Fira, Ouaddai and Sila reached 52,775. Thus far, 19,771 refugees have been pre-registered, of which 66% are children.

Relocation plan

On 17 May, some 314 persons (81 households) were relocated via a convoy from Djatak to Kounougou. A total of 4,500 persons are planned to be relocated to Kounougou. On 15 and 16 May, some 660 persons (156 households) were relocated from Goungour to Gaga in two convoys. Relocation will continue with one convoy per day to relocate a total of 10,000 persons. In the Sila region, relocation to Goz Amir camp will start this week. The Chadian Red Cross (CRT) provided hot meals to relocated families.

Protection

Wadi Fira region:

- While some refugees reported having official documents such as passports, national identity cards, and birth certificates; others reported being forced to flee without them.
- CRT conducted 26 protection interviews.
- An awareness session on refugee-related issues was held with administrative, traditional, and military authorities.

Ouaddai region:

- On 14 May a border monitoring exercise took place at the Wandalou and Goungour entry points. Refugees mentioned facing several challenges while crossing the border due to the presence of non-state armed groups on the Sudanese side, but reported feeling welcomed upon arrival to Chad.
- In Borota, Chadian Red Cross (CRT) conducted 298 protection interviews with newly arrived households.
- A meeting was held with 32 leaders from the Borota site to discuss matters related to peaceful coexistence.

Sila region:

On 16 May, an awareness-raising session was held on refugee rights and responsibilities, and on peaceful coexistence. The session targeted refugees and host communities as well as administrative, military, religious, and traditional authorities.

People with Specific Needs

Wadi Fira area:

- 22 children at risk or with specific needs were identified, including children who are out of school, separated, or have medical needs.
- A total of 73 person with specific needs were identified in Tine, including pregnant and lactating women.

Ouaddai region:

- In Borota, UNHCR is in contact with the Agence Nationale Des Titres Securises (ANATS) – the agency in charge of civil documentation in the country – to ensure registration of 27 new births.
- 14 children at risk were identified.
- 448 persons with specific needs were identified (409 women and 39 men), including women at risk, elderly people, single parents, people living with disabilities, and GBV survivors.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Wadi Fira area:

- Mass information sessions on GBV and on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) took place during the counting and pre-registration exercises.

Ouaddai region (Borota in particular):

- 746 persons were reached through three sessions targeting parents and children on the right to protection against physical abuse and the risk of child exploitation and GBV.
- 1,511 persons were reached through three sessions on types of GBV and services available, including the distribution of core relief items and food distribution.
- 74 persons were reached through household sessions on GBV.
- Two discussion groups on GBV were conducted with women and teenagers, which revealed that most women and girls fleeing have been subjected to violence – including various types of gender-based violence – by members of other communities.

Sila region:

- Nine cases were referred for psychosocial support and medical treatment.
- Awareness-raising sessions on GBV are ongoing in various sites.

Child protection and education

- 15 children living with physical disabilities were referred to IRC.
- HIAS informed parents of the establishment of the Child Friendly Spaces.
- 967 persons were reached in Borota with awareness-raising sessions on the right to protection against psychological distress and child exploitation.
- Six child-friendly spaces in the shade and near the parents' gathering areas were identified.
- A focus group with young adolescents was held with the Director of Education Cannot Wait (ECW) on 12 May. The objective of the focus group was to discuss needs and aspirations.

Core Relief item (CRI) Distribution

In Borota, UNHCR distributed 4,963 core relief item (CRI) kits, which included buckets, soap and plastic sheeting on 15 and 16 May.

Food Distribution

As of 17 May, a total of 28,345 new Sudanese refugees have received food in Ouaddaï (22,183) and Sila (6,162) with the support of WFP.

Health and Nutrition

Wadi Fira and Ouaddai regions:

- 10,416 medical consultations have been conducted since the beginning of the emergency. Malaria, acute respiratory infections and watery diarrhoea remain prevalent conditions.
- 5,262 children have been screened for malnutrition since the crisis started.
- 54 deliveries were assisted.
- 8 mental health cases were identified.
- 20,139 children were vaccinated by MSF France against measles, and 14,639 received deworming treatment.
- A mass screening campaign for malnutrition ended on 13 May, and data analysis has begun.
- Two mobile clinics are currently operational in Borota, and one new mobile clinic is planned to cover the newcomer sites at the Birak and Djimeze borders.

Shelter

Ouaddaï region:

412 emergency shelters have been completed at the Gaga camp extension site to accommodate new refugee families through the support of UNHCR partner ADES.

Wadi Fira area:

- 50 tents arrived in Kounougou on 15 May to facilitate the relocation of the first convoy from Birak, which arrived on 16 May.
- The transit centre in Kounougou has been cleaned and sanitized and should soon be ready for operation.

Sila region:

326 new shelters have been constructed for Sudanese arrivals, including 264 in Goz Amir and 62 in Djabal.

WASH

To expand drinking water supply at the borders and in the extension areas of the exiting camp, UNHCR with the support of LM International, International Rescue Committee (IRC), CARE, Help Chad, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and World Vision conducted the following activities on 15 and 16 May:

- UNHCR and partners set up five trucks with a total capacity of 110 m³ to ensure the transport of water to the spontaneous sites and to the extension areas of the camps.
- 424 m³ of treated water were supplied to the spontaneous sites, including: 248 m³ in the Koufroune axis; 96 m³ in the Borota axis; and 80 m³ in the Gaga extension zone.
- One polyethylene storage tank with a capacity of 10 m³ and a ramp with 6 taps was installed in the Mile extension zone.
- One borehole was finalized at the health centre of Hillouta.
- Work to complete three wells is ongoing in Koufroune.

To improve sanitation and hygiene:

- 81 latrines and showers were built in Sila, 66 in the Goz Amir extension zone and 15 in Djabal.
- In the Mile and Kounougou extension zone, a block of three emergency latrines and showers, a block of two latrines, two hand-washing facilities and two garbage bins were installed.
- 32 latrines and 32 showers were completed in the Gaga extension.
- Cleaning and disinfection of the Borota refugee settlement site and the Koufroune area are ongoing, and defecation areas are being prepared.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

An estimated number of 10,000 persons have arrived in CAR from Sudan, including over 6,000 Sudanese refugees and approximately 3,400 Central African refugees returnees. They are being hosted by host families or settled in spontaneous camps in Am-Dafock. Women and children constitute 98% of asylum seekers and 87% of returnees.

Operational Response

In Am Dafock, an initial registration of 6,333 refugees was carried out in early May to ensure that refugees had immediate access to food and basic items. Biometric registration began on 17 May, while new arrivals are still being observed crossing the border. Registration is made difficult by the extreme remoteness of the areas, the lack of communication and infrastructure, and the absence of a police presence despite a temporary MINUSCA base.

In support of the Central African Government's efforts and in an extremely difficult operational and logistical context, UNHCR and its partners are providing a protection response focused on the urgent needs of Sudanese refugees arriving in Am Dafock and on the needs of Central African refugees returning home.

Needs have been identified through a multi-sectoral rapid assessment. In addition to immediate protection needs, newly arrived Sudanese asylum seekers and Central Africans refugees returning identified food assistance as their top priority, followed by access to core relief items (CRI)

UNHCR staff undertakes regular travels to Am-Dafock and currently a UNHCR team of five is present. Travel between Am-Dafock is only possible with a MINUSCA escort which is provided once or twice a week. The presence in Am-Dafock allows for proximity with refugee and returnee communities, and it is crucial to facilitate and organize distributions, registering past and new arrivals and providing protection services. Of particular importance is the presence of community-based protection and gender-based violence staff who has been working with groups of women and girls and distribution of hygiene kits this week.

Coordination meeting in Bangui continue to be led by UNHCR, and in Birao with the support of OCHA.

The emergency response includes a two-phase approach:

Phase 1: UNHCR and its partners will respond to the most urgent needs identified at entry points, including registering, and identifying people in highly vulnerable situations, helping with the distribution food, providing emergency shelter and basic items such as mosquito nets, hygiene kits, and drinking water. UNHCR and its partners will ensure that people are provided with health care.

Phase 2: New arrivals will be relocated to safer and more accessible locations, where the government, UNHCR and partners will provide protection and multi-sectoral assistance. Relocation will be determined on a voluntary basis and will be preceded and accompanied by information, communication and consultation with refugees and host communities. Clear communication and consultation with the different groups within the communities as well as with the current residents of the host areas will be essential.

Registration

- UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees started biometric registration on 17 May. This will help in avoiding double counting and in identifying potential movements between the Central African and Sudanese part of Am-Dafock.
- It is estimated that 750 individuals can be registered in a day.

Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- Transport of CRIs and dignity kits by truck for further distribution in Am Dafock continues to be organized in Birao.
- 1,200 core relief items kits were distributed to households in Am Dafock.

Health

A meeting was organized under the leadership of OCHA and UNHCR to discuss the health response plan for Vakaga, and to enhance coordination and communication among all partners. Participants to the meeting included IMC, WHO, INTERSOS and two representatives of local associations.

Shelter

10 communal shelters were constructed in Am-Dafock, and 20 additional communal ones are planned to be built.

WASH

- An assessment on the rehabilitation of boreholes is underway in Am Dafock;.
- 1,684 refugee households received aquatabs for the purification of water; the host community was included in the distribution.
- 600 refugee households received jerry cans.
- 12 latrines were constructed UNHCR and ICRC.

ETHIOPIA

Population movements

Between 21 April and 16 May, according to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), over 21,800 people (64 nationalities) have arrived in Metema, Amhara region. Between 11 and 16 May, 138 people have crossed into Ethiopia through the Kurmuk border crossing in Benishangul Gumuz region (BSGR).

As of 17 May, 3,769 people (2,281 Eritreans, 315 Sudanese, and 509 South Sudanese) have been screened by UNHCR, including 43 Ethiopian refugees returning from Sudan. Of these, 79% (2,978) crossed through Metema, 513 entered via the Kurmuk border point in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, and 278 through Pagak/Burbley in the Gambella region. 44% of the screened population are women and girls, while 56% men and boys.

Out of the 3,769 individuals screened so far, 45% (or 1,697, including the 43 Ethiopian refugee returnees) were registered as refugees in Sudan. 55%, or 2,072, newly applying for asylum and most of them are Eritreans (1,607 individuals). Only 315 Sudanese nationals have so far been screened as in need of international protection in Ethiopia.

Operational response

UNHCR's operational response in Ethiopia is principally focused on the screening and recording of refugees and asylum-seekers, responding to protection and humanitarian needs, access to health, and referring people in need to appropriate services. Together with the Ethiopian Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and partners, UNHCR is working on the development of the land allocated by the authorities for a transit site in Mandefo Tarara, near Metema town in the Amhara region. The relocation of new refugees and asylum-seekers is on-going.

UNHCR Principal Situation Coordinator (PSC) travelled on mission to Metema on 16 and 17 May to review UNHCR's response and capacity on the ground. The Zonal Administrator and the RRS expressed appreciation for UNHCR's prompt response and for its contribution to the development of the transit site and relocation of beneficiaries. The authorities requested that the development of the transit site be expedited to rapidly decongest the border area and that the development of the permanent refugee site in Kumar kebele (70km from Metema) be also accelerated.

Protection

In Metema, UNHCR has started profiling refugees who had resettlement cases in process in Sudan (both UNHCR resettlement cases and private sponsorship cases). A total of 68 heads of households were interviewed and provided with guidance and counselling.

Since 15 April, 120 PSNs (75 females) have been recorded at Metema and referred to UNHCR's partner Rehabilitation and Development organization (RaDo) for further assessment and support.

On 15 May, 14 new GBV cases were recorded in Metema. UNHCR referred all survivors to appropriate medical services at the Metema Health centre. IOM secured transportation, while UNHCR's partner Development Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC) provided first aid counseling and dignity kits.

UNHCR has deployed an Associate Community-Based Protection Officer to attend to child protection related issues including Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC). Discussions with the youth at the Metema transit centre revealed that sports items are among their most stated needs.

Health response

Public health actors in Metema, including woreda health representative, federal Ministry of Health's Emergency Medical Team, Ethiopian Public Health Institute, WHO, IOM and UNHCR discussed preparedness and response to the public health situation around the emergency.

Food and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

At Metema transit site, UNHCR and partners distributed CRI kits to 61 refugees and asylum-seekers. At the same location, MSF-H plans to distribute 500 hygiene kits by the end of the week. In addition, 994 individuals were provided with food in Metema.

One rub hall and a generator were transported from Dabat to the Metema transit center. The rub hall will serve as a CRI storage space, while the generator will provide minimum required electrical energy for basic use.

Shelter and WASH Update

In Metema, 13 emergency shelters have been completed to date, to house some 650 people. As of 17 May, total of 645 refugees and asylum-seekers have been relocated from the Metema border to the Mandefo Tarara transit site. Eventually, all refugees and asylum-seekers will be relocated to the transit site if they wish. In the relocation effort, IOM provides transportation, UNHCR counselling, shelters, and WASH, while the Emergency Medical Team (EMT) deployed by the Ministry of Health secures health services.

The eight communal hangars that were erected at the transit site are fully occupied, while the remaining four are being completed to accommodate more beneficiaries. In addition, 12 (out of 25) emergency shelters have been completed to date, to house some 600 people.

A site for the construction of a solid waste disposal pit, which has been the main challenge at the Metema transit center, has been identified. Excavation works started on 18 May.

EGYPT

Arrivals

As of 17 May, over 110,300 people have entered Egypt from Sudan since 15 April, comprising 107,826 Sudanese individuals and 5,364 third-country nationals, as reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to UNHCR.

Registration

Over 4,600 individuals seeking international protection have approached UNHCR Egypt for registration, the vast majority of whom are Sudanese nationals, since 18 April. All asylum-seekers have been given registration appointments and UNHCR has scaled up registration capacity to respond to the demand.

Almost all new arrivals in Cairo interviewed by UNHCR had family members or strong community links in Cairo, and a few already had flats rented through their family or friends. All new arrivals indicated that they were planning to stay in Cairo for the time being.

Protection

Families continue to cross the border to find safety in Egypt with some 4,000 new arrivals a day according to the MFA. Discussions with the Sudanese community in Aswan indicate that a significant number of people are planning to flee Sudan, likely presenting even greater vulnerabilities compared to the initial wave of arrivals. Additionally, it was noted that many individuals are actively gathering resources to facilitate their departure.

Since the start of the emergency, UNHCR has conducted Focus Group Discussions in Cairo, Aswan, and Alexandria, involving more than 120 refugee leaders and community members, including recently arrived individuals from Sudan. Shelter, cash assistance, psycho-social support, and healthcare are among the priorities identified for newcomers. The community also expressed feelings of anxiety, frustration, and sadness, which were widely reported among the Sudanese community, particularly among those who still have family in Sudan. Sudanese refugees who previously relied on financial support from their families in Sudan are now facing challenging living conditions and are unable to meet their basic needs.

Core relief items

UNHCR, through the Egypt Red Crescent (ERC), is providing emergency assistance at the border. This includes supporting the ERC to scale up the range of services they can offer at the border, including the distribution of water and hygiene items. As of 17 May, UNHCR assistance to the ERC includes a total of 140,800 bottles of water (40,000 1.5L bottles and 100,000 0.6L bottles), 10,000 hygiene kits (with a small towel, soap, tissues, wipes, a razor, medical alcohol, toothbrush, toothpaste) and 5,000 packs of sanitary napkins. UNHCR is scaling up its assistance with the upcoming delivery of rub halls, family tents, mattresses, floor mats, blankets, and more sanitary packs. UNHCR will also provide material support to the border authorities.

Main needs and gaps

The situation on the Sudanese side of the border remains concerning, as conditions continue to deteriorate. The Egyptian authorities have taken the necessary measures to expedite the entry process, although the large numbers of new arrivals remain a challenge in terms of processing capacity. UNHCR observations also indicate that conditions at the Sudanese side of the border are rapidly deteriorating with a lack of water, food, WASH facilities, and speculation on the costs of the buses for crossing the area between the Sudanese and Egyptian borders, all resulting in people being held for long periods of time in dire conditions. The ERC reported an increase in medical cases arriving at the border due to the failure of the health system in Sudan. To that end, the Ministry of Health and Population has deployed equipped ambulances to the border to assist with health care.

Coordination

UNHCR is strengthening engagement and coordination with partners in the south and border areas, establish mechanisms for the coordination of the interagency response on the ground, and continuing to engage local authorities and community-based organizations to assess the needs and scope of the response. UNHCR in Egypt maintains continuous communication with UNHCR Sudan about the challenge and needs at the Sudanese-Egyptian border.



Nyarik, a South Sudanese widow refugee with three children who had found safety in Sudan is now forced to flee again. She spent around three days to reach the border at Qustol to seek international protection in Egypt. © UNHCR/Rula Amin

Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan



1.1M PEOPLE
TOTAL PLANNING FIGURE



640K

SUDANESE REFUGEES AND REFUGEES
OF OTHER NATIONALITIES



204K

REFUGEE
RETURNEES



166.5K

MIGRANT
RETURNEES



51.5K

THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS



\$470.4M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



140

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

The [Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) (RRP) was issued on 17 May for a period of six months (May – October 2023) and seeks **USD 470.4 million** to support refugees, returnees and host communities in the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan. The funds are intended to help **over 1 million people**, including refugees, returnees and third country nationals.

The [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (HRP) for Sudan has been revised due to the soaring needs spurred by the current crisis. The revised HRP as of May 2023 requires **USD 2.56 billion**, an increase of USD 800 million from just a few months ago, to help **18 million people** until the end of this year, making it the largest appeal ever issued for Sudan.

You can find here a [Joint Summary of the Revised Humanitarian Response Plan and Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Sudan Crisis](#).

In line with the inter-agency plans, UNHCR has also published on 17 May a [Supplementary Appeal](#) – a short document that outlines UNHCR's specific increased financial needs for the Sudan situation emergency response – both within Sudan and in neighbouring countries receiving refugees and refugee returnees. UNHCR's total requirements for the Sudan Situation are now **USD 253.9 million** for a period of six months (May-October 2023).

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