

Sudan

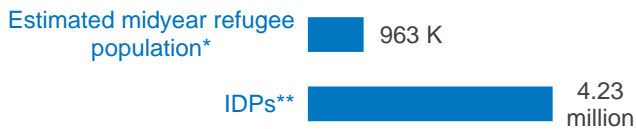
September 2023

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has **aggravated humanitarian conditions** in a country with already large humanitarian needs, as well as **triggered massive displacement**.

UNHCR continues to stay and deliver **protection and assistance** to the forcibly displaced population in Sudan, both in response to the **emergency** and in line with **regular programmes**.

Without a durable ceasefire and local peace agreements, **humanitarian access** will continue to be challenging, due to fighting, criminality, and general impunity.

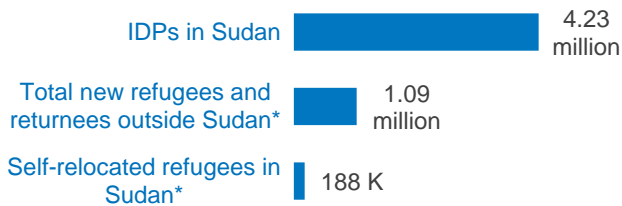
POPULATION OF CONCERN



DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

5.5 million

total displaced since 15 April 2023



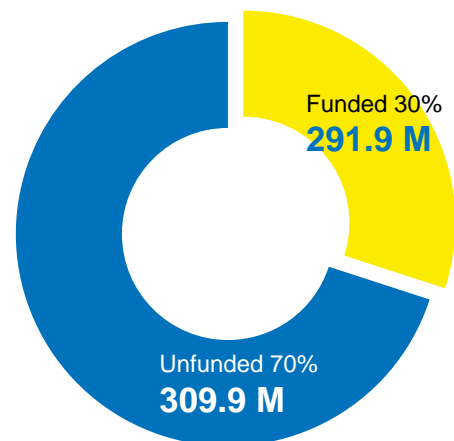
*Source: UNHCR

**Source: IOM DTM Weekly Displacement Snapshot, 17 September 2023

FUNDING AS OF 18 SEPTEMBER 2023

USD 418.2 M

requested for the Sudan operation



UNHCR PRESENCE

655 Staff

498 National Staff

157 International Staff

10 Offices

1 Representation in Port Sudan

3 Sub Offices (Wad Madani, Gedaref, Kosti)

4 Field Offices (Kassala, Girba, Damazine, Wadi Halfa)

2 Support Hub (Nairobi Kenya, Farchana Chad)



Refugee volunteers part of community-based protection networks in White Nile State receive training.
© UNHCR/Isadora Zoni

Operational Context

The operational context in Sudan changed drastically when, on 15 April 2023, armed conflict broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The ongoing conflict is the latest development in Sudan's stunted transition to democratic governance following the military takeover on 25 October 2021. The conflict has dramatically worsened the humanitarian conditions in Sudan, exacerbated pre-existing intercommunal and ethnic tensions, and triggered massive displacement. As of 27 September 2023, over 5.5 million people have been displaced by the conflict, including 4.2 million internally and over 1 million who fled outside the country in search of safety and security. Current interagency estimates for internal displacement are higher than the recorded IDP movements of the last four years combined, highlighting the largescale humanitarian crisis unfolding in Sudan and which continues to affect its neighbouring countries. The inter-agency [Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\) for Sudan](#) estimates that the number of people in need in the country increased from 15.8 million in November 2022 to 24.7 million in May 2023, mainly because of the ongoing conflict.

Sudan has historically hosted one of the largest refugee populations in Africa. Prior to the conflict, Sudan hosted 1.1 million refugees, majority of whom resided in Khartoum State. Since the start of conflict, UNHCR and partners have been able to map the internal movement of refugees within Sudan. An estimated 187,000 have moved towards safer areas. As of end-July 2023, an estimated 963,400 refugees and asylum seekers remain in Sudan.

Despite the conflict, UNHCR remains committed to stay and deliver inside Sudan. International and national staff are present in eight locations across the country, delivering protection and assistance to the forcibly displaced population both in response to the emergency and in line with UNHCR's regular programmes. UNHCR has established a small representation office in Port Sudan (Red Sea State), while the situation in Khartoum remains insecure. Some national staff remain present delivering protection and assistance where it is safe to do so in the Darfur and Kordofan regions, but operations have been downscaled as a result of persisting insecurity in many areas. The operations in White Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, Girba, and Blue Nile states have been fully operational. New field hubs have been established in Wadi Halfa (Northern state) and in Wad Madani (Jazirah state). Additionally, UNHCR has established a presence in the proposed common UN hub in Chad to respond to the situation in Darfur through cross-border operations. A back office has also been established in Nairobi, Kenya to provide remote support.

Similar to other humanitarian agencies in Sudan, UNHCR faces operational challenges in its response, including persisting insecurity in operational areas; administrative barriers in the delivery of aid; lack of supplies, fuel, and cash; poor connectivity; and losses from the destruction and looting of warehouses and offices across the country. Without a durable ceasefire and local peace agreements, humanitarian access will continue to be challenging due to ongoing fighting, criminality, and general impunity.

Working with Partners

UNHCR, with Sudan's Commissioner for Refugees (COR), leads and coordinates the refugee response in Sudan as co-chair of the **Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF)**. The forum brings together partners, including NGOs, who provide protection and assistance to refugees in Sudan. The [Country Refugee Response Plan](#)

2023, revised in June 2023 in view of the emergency situation in Sudan, brings together over 41 partners to respond to the needs of over 1 million people in need in Sudan. The interagency Response Plan is appealing for US\$ 570 million to meet the needs of refugees who have been displaced within Sudan, existing refugee camp situations, and the communities that host them.

In the IDP response, UNHCR leads the **Protection, Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Item (ES/NFI)**, and **Site Management (SM)** sectors, following the Humanitarian Country Team’s decision of re-activation of the SM sector in July 2023.

Highlights

- UNHCR remains operational across Sudan, with international staff present in eight locations across the eastern and southern corridors. The United Nations has initiated a systemwide Level 3 emergency for the Sudan situation.
- Active armed conflict in Khartoum and large parts of the Darfur and Kordofan regions, occasional armed clashes in Blue Nile State, as well as persisting insecurity in the vast part of the country continue to hamper humanitarian access and delivery of humanitarian assistance and services.
- In White Nile State, UNHCR and partners are rapidly scaling up the emergency response amid government reports of 144,000 refugees and asylum seekers who have fled from Khartoum and other conflict areas, on top of an existing refugee population of 297,000 before 15 April. UNHCR is also responding to a growing number of IDPs in the state as part of the wider IDP response scaleup in Sudan.
- Egyptian authorities have reversed longstanding visa exemptions for Sudanese children, women, and the elderly. Despite the new regulations, many people continue to arrive in Wadi Halfa with the hope of traveling onward to Egypt, even without having the proper documentation. An increasing number of people resorting to smuggling to cross the border, as well as deportations from Egypt, have been reported.
- Cross-border operations from Chad into Darfur have been approved by the Sudanese and Chadian governments. The first operation was successful in bringing NFI assistance into Kulbus, West Darfur.
- UNHCR is scaling up its IDP response across the country, building on the previous IDP response and expanding it to new areas now hosting IDPs, notably in the East (Kassala, Gedaref, Jazirah, Blue and White Nile states) and the North. UNHCR is seizing opportunities by adopting a community-based approach considering the majority of IDPs living in communities, by taking a sensible approach to IDPs in gathering sites, as well as seeking to scale up community-based interventions to invest in vocational skills, access to markets and livelihoods to reduce dependency and enable the self-sufficiency of the newly displaced people, while supporting the most vulnerable with tailored individual assistance.
- From 1 January to 31 July, UNHCR has been able to deliver the following assistance, reaching over 700,000 refugees, IDPs, returnees, and members of the host community with critical support.



721,558
WASH



311,745
NFI



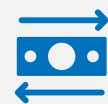
116,735
Shelter



101,645
Health



73,833
Education



36,068
CBI

Main Activities

REFUGEES

- Continued refugee protection engagement, registration and documentation, assistance, community-based approaches, close cooperation with Refugee Consultation Forum partners.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

- Scaled up IDP engagement, with a stronger operational footprint and an enhanced tri-sector role in the inter-context for protection, shelter and site management in line with UNHCR's IDP Policy and the IASC cluster approach.

HOST COMMUNITY

- Collaboration with the Humanitarian Country Team and UN Country Team including development actors to provide targeted community-based support for conflict-affected host and displaced communities.

Protection

- UNHCR and the Commission for Refugees (COR) continued the verification of refugees who have self-relocated within Sudan, from Khartoum and conflict areas, to the eastern states and White Nile State. UNHCR teams on the ground continue to support authorities on population fixing, verification, and registration, including to ensure proper identification and unhindered access to services.
- UNHCR is increasing field presence in Wadi Halfa to actively engage communities stranded in this border area while waiting to process their documentation for entry into Egypt. Protection monitoring and awareness activities are being carried out on relevant issues such as risks of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and trafficking in persons.
- Where security and mobility permit, UNHCR and partners continue to monitor the situation of persons of concern through direct visits. UNHCR also strives to access hard-to-reach areas remotely, through community-based protection networks, community outreach volunteers, and refugee leaders, connectivity permitting.
- Communication with Communities and feedback mechanisms are functional through active hotlines dedicated to Khartoum, Darfur Region, Kordofan Region, east Sudan and the southern corridor. Apart from hotlines, UNHCR's Help Page for Sudan continues to be updated on a regular basis and the social networking channels provide helpful information in English and Arabic.

Education

- UNHCR continues to work directly with the Ministry of Education (MoE) at the State level to ensure quality education refugees in Sudan. Despite the outbreak of conflict, UNHCR has been able to continue supporting refugee children with access to education in the states of White Nile, Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, and Jazirah.
- Children in need of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) are supported through Child Friendly Spaces and Child Rights Clubs, in collaboration with the Education Working Group which provides recreational activities.

Health and Nutrition

- In the camps and settlements, UNHCR is striving to ensure the continued delivery of primary healthcare services to the displaced population including through adequate staffing to manage consultations, secondary

referrals, screening of children for malnutrition (mid-upper arm circumference), and deliveries, in coordination with other agencies including WHO, UNICEF, and WFP. UNHCR has been able to receive medicines procured internationally to support health facilities.

- In White Nile State, where the influx of refugees from conflict areas has severely stretched available services, the health and nutrition response is being expanded as part of efforts to scale up the emergency response. UNHCR and partners are enhancing the delivery of health and nutrition services in the camps including through supporting mobile healthcare services in camps and the delivery of community health activities. UNHCR supported the recruitment of nutrition volunteers to support community-based nutrition activities including mass MUAC screening.
- UNHCR and WHO issued a [joint press release](#) raising alarm of the deteriorating health conditions caused by the Sudan crisis.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- In response to the influx of displaced arrivals from Khartoum and conflict areas into established camps and settlements in Sudan, which has greatly overwhelmed WASH services and capacities, UNHCR and partners provide support in sustaining the capacity of WASH systems to deliver safe and potable water through the maintenance, rehabilitation, and operation of water facilities.
- Efforts are also undertaken to improve sanitation and hygiene conditions, including through the construction of latrines and bathing units, distribution of personal hygiene kits to women and girls, and hygiene promotion in communities.

Shelter and NFIs

- The delivery of shelter and NFI assistance in Sudan has been greatly hampered by the looting and destruction of several UNHCR and partner warehouses, including UNHCR's central warehouse in North Kordofan. Despite significant setbacks and bureaucratic and administrative impediments, UNHCR has been able to continue the provision of lifesaving assistance and shelter, including tents, communal shelters, and emergency shelter kits.
- Additionally, 6 camps in White Nile and neighboring communities benefited from construction of embankments for flood mitigation, while 4 camps in Gedaref are undergoing desilting of the drains for flood preparedness, as well as repositioning of excavators to facilitate a rapid response in case of flood emergencies.
- Following the approval of cross-border operations from Chad into Darfur, UNHCR established warehouses in Farchana, eastern Chad and procured 10,000 NFI kits for distribution in West and Central Darfur.

Cash-Based Interventions

- To support IDPs in independently meeting their basic needs, UNHCR has re-started cash-based interventions in July 2023 with initial distributions completed in Gedaref and Wadi Halfa, and interventions planned or ongoing in Red, Sea, Kassala, and White Nile State.

Durable Solutions

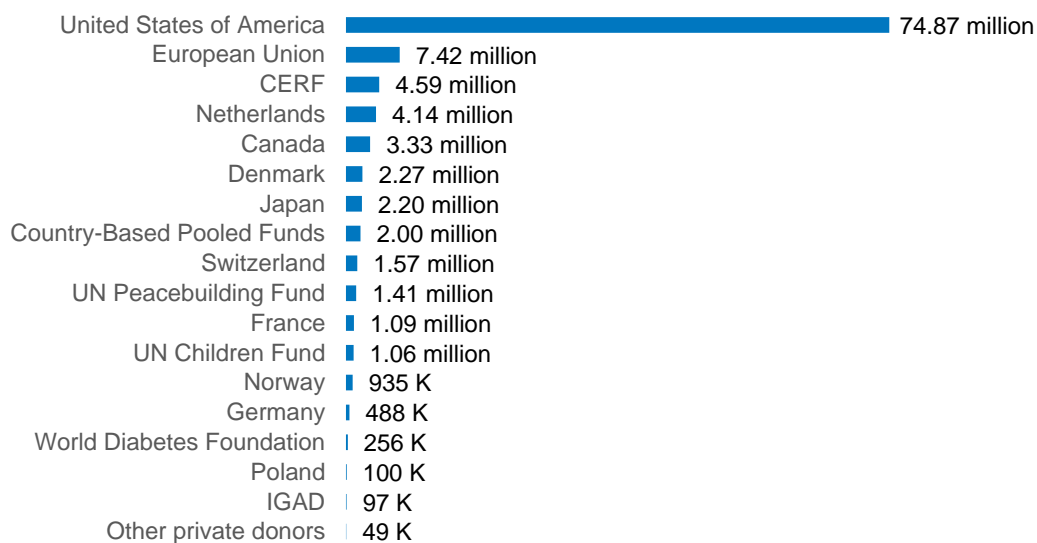
- UNHCR continues to capitalize on outreach efforts to identify refugees who may have been already considered for resettlement and complementary pathways options. Cooperation with UNHCR neighbouring offices to track those refugees who were in the resettlement process and have crossed the border continue, to ensure that pathways towards solutions are not interrupted. In parallel, the office in Sudan has used the information collected to advocate for continued acceptance of cases from Sudan and is closely coordinating with relevant partners the way forward, including on exit procedures the situation permitting.

Financial Information (18 September 2023)

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 107.9 million**.



BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONSⁱ | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

United States of America 51 million | **France** 9.5 million | **Italy** 8.8 million | **Australia** 7.2 million | **Private donors Australia** 7 million | **Private donors Germany** 6.3 million | **Canada** 5.4 million | **Norway** 3.7 million | **Private donors USA** 3.2 million | **Finland** 3.1 million | **Private donors United Kingdom** 2.6 million

Denmark | Estonia | Guernsey | Isle of Man | Jersey | Luxembourg | Malta | New Zealand | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONSⁱⁱ | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Private donors Japan 30 million | **United Kingdom** 28.9 million | **France** 26.7 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 23.5 million | **Germany** 23.1 million | **Switzerland** 18.9 million | **Private donors Italy** 13.7 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.9 million

Algeria | Australia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

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ⁱ Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Sudan. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.

ⁱⁱ Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.