

SUDAN SITUATION

24 – 30 October 2023



After months of suspension, Sudanese refugees in Kumer/Ethiopia have received monthly food rations. ©UNHCR/ Elema Fulem

Highlights

The ongoing clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that started on 15 April 2023 have continued for 198 days as of 30 October.

In South Sudan, border monitoring teams observed a 49 per cent increase in new arrivals in the past week with 63 per cent of them Sudanese.

In a [statement](#) on 29 October, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths welcomed the resumption of talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to end the months-long conflict between the Sudanese army and its rival paramilitary force. Mr. Griffiths underscored the dire humanitarian situation in Sudan and called on the parties to the conflict “to break the bureaucratic logjam.”

The United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan ([UNITAMS](#)) also welcomed the ongoing talks in Jeddah, expressing hope that the new round of negotiations will result in the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, and a comprehensive ceasefire, “which are both crucial to alleviate the suffering of the Sudanese people”.

The US State Department in a [press statement](#) thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the talks, and welcome IGAD, which is also participating on behalf of the African Union, as a co-facilitator. It said, “the reconvened talks continue to have a narrow set of objectives.”

The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Clementine Nkweta-Salami, has expressed deep concern over continued reports of attacks against civilian infrastructure as brutal fighting continues across Sudan. In a [statement](#), the senior UN official said “the conflict has caused untold suffering in Sudan at a scale never seen before”.

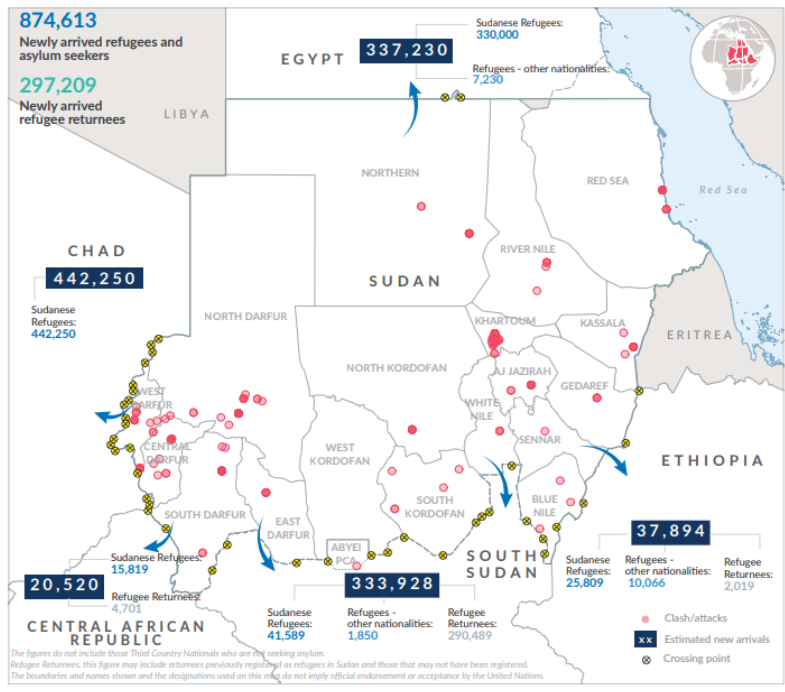
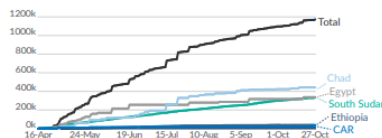
OVERVIEW: There are now nearly 6 million forcibly displaced due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, including 4.63 million internally and over 1.17 million in neighbouring countries. Sudan was already hosting large refugee populations before being impacted by this new emergency and, like hosting countries, needs additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance, including for those who have been secondarily displaced within the country. Urgent needs include water, food, shelter, health, and core relief items. The current priority activities are the registration of new arrivals, relocation away from border areas, identification of especially vulnerable families and persons with specific needs, and putting mechanisms in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and ensure alternative care services for unaccompanied refugee children.

5,997,017 Forcibly Displaced
4,633,930 IDPs in Sudan
1,171,822 Newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers and returnees
191,265 Self-relocated Refugees in Sudan

Arrivals by population and estimated gender type



New arrivals from Sudan



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- A UN interagency joint humanitarian convoy arrived in El Fasher, carrying supplies from Kosti to North Darfur and other hard-to-reach locations.
- In Nyala, Sudan's second largest city, reports that RSF has taken over has raised concerns there could be further displacement of refugees, IDPs and other civilians.
- Three refugees have tragically lost their lives and three others sustained injuries in Bentiu, Khartoum, due to shelling.
- Hasahisa IDP camp in Central Darfur continues to remain under siege, with reports of shelling.
- UNHCR and partners distributed cash assistance to 404 IDP families in Kassala to help them cover their basic needs.

Updates by Location

Khartoum

In a tragic incident in *bentiu* (an open area serving as refugee settlement), three refugees lost their lives, and three others were injured in a shelling attack. Discussions are ongoing to help refugees who remains stranded in Khartoum to relocate to safer locations.

Darfur

The UN interagency joint humanitarian convoy, which departed from Kosti on 18 October, arrived in El Fasher, North Darfur, on 28 October, delivering much needed relief items and medicines. Medical supplies destined for East Darfur have reached El Fula, in West Kordofan, in transit to Ed Daein. Meanwhile, medical supplies intended for South Darfur are still awaiting processing in Kosti.

The reported change in control of Nyala is expected to drive further displacement of refugees, IDPs and other civilians from South Darfur to East, North, and Central Darfur States. In El Fasher, North Darfur, there is already a noticeable increase in families moving southward in anticipation of more attacks, leading to overcrowding at gathering sites. This raises health concerns and the potential for a crisis, given the insufficiency of available assistance. These events have also prompted the postponement of planned cross-border activities to Um Shalaya, Central Darfur.

Port Sudan

Registration of urban refugees is ongoing with the aim to verify the pre-existing refugees and to reissue documentation for refugees and asylum seekers that have recently arrived from Khartoum.

White Nile State

UNHCR and UNICEF assessed the Aj Jabalain Birth Registration Center to support the resumption of civil registration to prevent statelessness. A workshop has been planned to help accelerate the center's reopening and develop a viable birth registration strategy.

On 26 October, UNHCR trained 15 IDP- and refugee-led organizations, emphasizing the benefits of localization of humanitarian activities, and the need to enhance their operational effectiveness. Similarly, UNHCR, in collaboration with JASMAR Human Security Organization (JASMAR), organized a two-day Community Based Protection Network (CBPN) training for 20 community members in Kosti. The aim was to build the capacity of community-based protection structures among the IDP population, with a focus on fostering self-reliance within the community.

Kassala

Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) received 151 new arrivals from Ethiopia at the Shagarab reception centre. Most of the new arrivals are Eritreans.

UNHCR, in collaboration with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and the Blue Nile Mashreg Bank, completed the distribution of cash assistance to 404 IDP families.

Four awareness sessions were facilitated for 73 unaccompanied children, educating them on the risks of irregular onward movement. The children were also provided with hygiene kits.

Northern state

UNHCR is finalizing preparations to distribute cash assistance to 250 PSNs in Dongola and Wadi Halfa.

Gedaref

Food distributions have been completed in Um Gargour while they are still ongoing in Um Rakuba, Babikri, and Tunaydbah.

Ninety-one individuals, consisting of 82 Eritreans and nine Ethiopians, have been verified in Gallabat. They returned from Ethiopia to escape the ongoing conflict in the Amhara region after previously fleeing the conflict in Sudan. UNHCR is working with COR to advocate for an increased presence of NGOs at the border to support the government in the provision of humanitarian assistance to new arrivals.

Wad Madani (Jazira state)

IDPs and refugees continue to arrive in Wad Madani, fleeing conflict elsewhere in Sudan. In the past week, 50 families comprising 200 South Sudanese refugees arrived from Omdurman, Bahri and Khartoum.

CHAD

Highlights

- 165 Sudanese families arrived in Chad's Goz-Achie and Daguessa regions last week, citing an escalation in the fighting.
- The Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General for the prevention of genocide, Ms. Alice Nderitu visited Farchana Camp and Adré site last week and interacted with Sudanese refugees.

- 35,743 family shelters, 5,211 latrines and showers, and 24 boreholes have been constructed to accommodate the new arrivals.

Relocation

A total of 1,808 new arrivals were relocated to Milé camp last week, bringing the total relocated to date to 5,911 refugees.

Protection

The individual registration of refugees has continued in Ourang and Arkoum sites with 5,213 individuals (1,382 households) registered in the past week. So far, 48,208 (12,849 households) have been registered in the two sites.

Health and Nutrition

Health: A total of 125,926 medical consultations have been carried out since the start of the emergency, including 11,853 consultations last week. Malaria, acute respiratory infections, and watery diarrhoea were the three most frequent pathologies.

Overall, a total of 6,863 individuals have been receiving treatment for mental health.

1,654 deliveries were attended to by qualified health personnel since the start of the emergency, including 175 deliveries last week.

Nutrition: A total of 59,851 children were screened for malnutrition of which 14,905 with moderate acute malnutrition and 8,794 with severe acute malnutrition were treated. Out of 11494 pregnant and breastfeeding women screened, 1,291 cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified and treated.

Shelter Infrastructure and WASH

Most refugees in Chad receive less than 10 litres of water per person per day due to lack of resources?, efforts are being undertaken to meet at least the minimum emergency standard of 15 l/p/d. Eighty-four latrines and shower rooms are serving refugees in Zabout camp, while six boreholes were completed in Alacha and Farchana camp extension.

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ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- As of October 26, a total of 37,894 refugees and asylum-seekers along with 2,019 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have fled violence in Sudan and arrived in Ethiopia.
- Global food distributions have been successfully completed in Kumer settlement and the Metema transit center, providing essential assistance to 7,760 refugees from Sudan. Similar distributions are planned for Kurmuk in the upcoming days. With 19 separated children identified last week, the total number of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC) receiving vital protection and assistance at both the Kurmuk transit center and Kumer settlement has reached 928.
- Level 3 (L3) biometric registration of refugees continues at the Metema transit center, with 913 individuals (516 families) documented as of 28 October.
- The Awlala site in the Amhara region is fully prepared to accommodate the initial group of 500 individuals being relocated from the transit center.

Population Movements

As of 26 October, 37,894 refugees and asylum-seekers (17,873 families), as well as 2,019 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia. Of these, 19,173 crossed through the Metema entry point in Amhara, 16,652 through the Kurmuk entry point in Benishangul-Gumuz Region (BGR) and 700 individuals through different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey). Most of the new arrivals are Sudanese (68.1 per cent), followed by Eritreans (22 per cent), and South Sudanese (4.3 per cent).

Protection

At the Kurmuk transit site, 19 separated children, including 11 girls, were identified, and registered, adding to the total count of 578 UASC and OVC registered in the BGR since last April. Among these, 255 are girls, and they all receive comprehensive child protection support, including foster family arrangements when feasible. To ensure the children's protection and well-being, home visits were conducted, reaching 98 children. During these visits, 17 children with medical concerns were identified and subsequently referred to the health center for further evaluation.

Across sites and settlements in the Amhara region, 350 UASC and OVCs have been identified and are currently receiving vital protection and services. Home visits were organized to monitor the well-being and protection of 103 children in Kumer settlement, where children raised several concerns, including limited access to basic services and education. UNHCR, in collaboration with partners, is actively addressing some of these issues. Moreover, Core Relief Items (CRIs) have already been distributed to 66 children, including 31 from the surrounding host community.

A total of 1,005 children have engaged in daily indoor and outdoor recreational activities at the Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) in Kurmuk and Kumer settlement. In addition, high-energy biscuits were distributed to those at the Kurmuk transit center.

In the various sites in Metema, 53 survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) received Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) and counseling to improve their mental and emotional well-being. Awareness sessions on risk factors for GBV, reporting mechanisms, available services, and Prevention from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) were ongoing, reaching 120 individuals.

Last week, 66 Persons with Special Needs (PSNs) were identified in Metema, bringing the total number of PSNs in the Amhara region's sites to 785 (comprising 418 males and 367 females). Of these, 103 require eyeglasses for improved vision, and support is under consideration. Additionally, six others received auxiliary crutches, custom sticks, and CRIs.

At the Kurmuk transit center, HelpAge International, in coordination with UNHCR, Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), and community leaders, distributed CRIs to 275 families with elderly members.

Registration

Level 3 (L3) biometric registration of refugees is ongoing at the Metema transit center, documenting 913 individuals (516 families) as of 28 October. The registration will help refugees access assistance and services, including food.

Food distribution

The distribution of food ration in the Amhara region, encompassing both Kumer settlement and the Metema transit center, has been successfully executed, benefiting a total of 7,760 refugees from Sudan. This total comprises 6,538 recipients at Kumer settlement and 1,222 at the Metema reception center. Similar distributions are scheduled for Kurmuk next week, with food supplies already prepositioned for the upcoming distribution.

Health and nutrition

In Kurmuk, the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) continues to provide essential health services at the transit centre, tending to 456 patients, including 77 children under the age of five, who received consultations and treatment during the past week. Malaria continues to be a prevalent health concern in the area, with upper and lower respiratory tract infections and watery diarrhea also being notable health issues.

Of the 44 children under five who were screened for malnutrition at Kurmuk, 16 were identified as malnourished or undernourished and subsequently referred for treatment.

At Kumer settlement, a total of 527 patients received medical consultations, which included 51 individuals from the surrounding host communities. Furthermore, 730 children under the age of five and 121 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers underwent screenings for malnutrition of whom 132 individuals with varying degrees of malnutrition were referred for treatment. Challenges at Kumer and other health posts in the

Amhara region, persist due to limited availability of medications for chronic and mental illnesses, along with inadequate diagnostic capacities.

In observance of World Mental Health Day, awareness messages were disseminated across all sites, providing information regarding the typical signs and symptoms of mental health issues and guidance on where to seek support.

WASH

At the Kurmuk transit center, refugees and asylum-seekers currently receive a daily water allocation of 10 liters per person (l/p/d). The latrine to beneficiary ratio stands at 1:56, which is slightly short of the emergency standard. UNHCR and its partners are working to bring this ratio to an acceptable level. However, a significant budgetary shortfall for expanding WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services at the extension site presents a considerable challenge.

In the Amhara region, the per capita water supply stands at 9.8 l/p/d and 13.6 l/p/d at Kumer settlement and at the Metema transit center, respectively. The latrine to beneficiary ratio is 1:97 at Kumer and 1:100 at the Metema transit center, which fall significantly below the emergency standard of 1:50.

Education

After a successful back-to-school campaign conducted in the Kumer settlement and its surrounding areas, students have begun to register at the Kumer Elementary School to attend classes from one to eighth grade. Furthermore, the recruitment of teachers from both the refugee and host communities is currently in progress, contributing to the enhancement of educational opportunities in the region.

Site development, Shelter and CRIs

In the Amhara region, UNHCR and its partners have been making significant headway in preparing the new Awlala site to welcome incoming arrivals from the Metema transit center. In particular, 40 family tents have been erected, a 10,000-liter water tank installed, and piping work finalized. Furthermore, the construction of two latrine blocks, each featuring five cubicles, and two shower blocks with two cubicles each, has been successfully finished. With these preparations complete, the site is now ready to accommodate the first group of 500 individuals arriving from the Metema transit center.

In Sherkole camp (BGR), construction work for 16 shelters has progressed notably. These structures are expected to be handed over to the respective families shortly upon completion, further enhancing the living conditions for residents in the camp.

EGYPT

Highlights

- Since mid-April, 338,374 forcibly displaced people have crossed into Egypt, including 8,374 third country nationals.
- UNHCR has so far registered nearly 85,000 new arrivals from Sudan, 89 per cent of them Sudanese.
- Three 'Co-working Spaces' providing high-speed Internet and IT equipment for refugee freelancers who work in the digital economy were inaugurated in Cairo.
- The average number of calls to the UNHCR Infoline per day has increased by 87% compared to pre-crisis levels.

Registration and Protection

Registration: As of 27 October, 120,714 new arrivals from Sudan have been given appointments for registration, of which 84,785 have already been registered. This represents 25 per cent of the over 338,000 forcibly displaced people who have arrived from Sudan since mid-April. Most of the registered population are Sudanese nationals (89%), while the other main nationalities registered are South Sudanese (5%), and Eritrean (4%). 88 per cent of the registered new arrivals originate from Khartoum. 22 per cent have one or more specific needs.

Community-based Protection: As part of community empowerment efforts, UNHCR and its partner Terre des Hommes (TdH), continued mapping refugee-led organizations (RLOs) in Greater Cairo, so far reaching out to 189 RLOs. Most of them have Sudanese representation, with 18 led by Sudanese refugees. A total of 74 RLOs have so far received capacity building through Training of Trainers.

UNHCR's partner TdH inaugurated three 'Co-working Spaces' inside the Community Learning Centers in three areas of Cairo. Co-working spaces provide access to high-speed Internet connection and digital devices for refugee freelancers who work in the digital economy. An initial estimate of 225 refugees, including Sudanese, and 75 Egyptians will benefit from these spaces.

Infoline: 8,001 inquiries were handled by UNHCR's Infoline last week and registration appointments given to 1,808 families (4,541 individuals). This brings the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the system to 51,986. Following the merger of the Infolines for Cairo and Alexandria, the average number of calls per day has increased by 87% compared to pre-crisis levels.

Cash-Based Assistance (CBI)

UNHCR, in collaboration with the Egypt Post Office and Caritas, provided cash assistance to 3,200 UASC to help them meet their essential needs and mitigate resorting to negative coping strategies. 251 of the beneficiaries were new arrivals from Sudan.

Livelihoods

In September and October, UNHCR disbursed livelihood grants to 327 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 48 who have recently fled the conflict in Sudan. These grants have enabled the recipients to establish or support income-generating activities aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in Egypt. The main livelihood sectors are retail, production, and service.

Education

On 24 October, UNHCR carried out a closing ceremony for a volunteering programme through which Egyptian students in Alexandria facilitated English classes for 75 refugee children, mostly Sudanese new arrivals. Students with experience in photography and film editing also facilitated a workshop for more than 15 refugee entrepreneurs on content creation and social media marketing. The programme was implemented in collaboration with Caritas and the College of Language and Communication of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport.

WASH

UNHCR delivered 104,400 bottles of mineral water to the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) for distribution to new arrivals from Sudan at the border crossings. Since the onset of the Sudan crisis, UNHCR delivered a total of 784,600 water bottles to the ERC.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- Border monitoring teams observed a 49 per cent increase in new arrivals in the past week, with 18,425 individuals received compared to 12,260 individuals the previous week. 63 per cent of them are Sudanese.
- As of 29 October, a total of 347,242 individuals have arrived in South Sudan, including returnees, refugees and asylum seekers. 98 per cent of them entered via the Joda/Renk border point.
- The road from Renk to Maban remains impassable due to recent heavy rains and flooding preventing the safe and dignified relocation of refugees and asylum-seekers to Maban refugee camps.
- Almost 15,000 individuals are estimated to be residing at the Transit Center in Renk, overcrowding the site and raising health concerns. The situation is expected to worsen as the new arrivals continue to be received while the relocations to Maban remain on hold.
- Malnutrition rates across transit and reception centres have dropped below the emergency threshold for the third week.
- Out of 43,495 refugees and asylum seekers that have arrived since April, 52 per cent have been biometrically registered.

Protection

Registration: 43,495 refugees and asylum seekers have arrived in South Sudan since the start of the Sudan refugee emergency, with 52 per cent (22,568) biometrically registered so far. In Renk, 12,937 refugees have been profiled for biometric registration that would start soon.

Persons with Specific Needs: Since the start of the emergency, 30,181 individuals with at least one vulnerability have been identified at the border with Sudan. The top three vulnerabilities include women at risk (41 per cent), persons with disabilities or serious medical condition (27 per cent) and female headed household (20 per cent).

Health and Nutrition

Nutrition: out of 817 children under five that were screened for malnutrition across the transit and reception centers, seven per cent were identified as malnourished. This marks the fourth week in a row when malnutrition rates have fallen below the emergency threshold of 10 per cent. The low rate is most likely a result of the better conditions in which children arrive at the transit and reception centers, and early detection and treatment upon arrival.

Health: at the transit center in Renk, 2,277 medical consultations were conducted in addition to 133 pregnant women who received antenatal care last week. The average daily crude mortality rate was 0.4 per 10,000 people per day, which falls within the SPHERE standard emergency threshold of 1 per 10,000 people per day.

A total of 3,725 children between the ages of six months and 15 years received different types of age-appropriate vaccinations, including for measles, polio and other routine vaccinations. This brings the cumulative number of vaccinated children to date to 17,370.

Water and Sanitation

Water provision across all sites has improved notably, particularly in Malakal and Renk. Water supply in Paloch transit centre has improved, with the installation of a permanent water point open 24 hours a day to returnees and host community.

Latrine coverage, nevertheless, remains dire, particularly as more emergency latrines are being decommissioned than constructed. Latrine construction has commenced in Paloch, which is expected to improve the sanitation situation.

Shelter and NFI

In Renk, construction of the extension site and installation of the planned 46 shelters are ongoing, hoped to shelter 1,242 people up on completion. Additional 82 communal shelters are required to accommodate the remaining 2,258 individuals for which additional funding is urgently needed.

To accommodate new arrivals, 16 family tents have been installed in the Wedweil transit centre, providing shelter for 68 individuals.

IT/ TELECOMMUNICATIONS

In Renk and Wedwil Settlement, UNHCR continues to provide uninterrupted internet connectivity for UN agencies, NGOs, and affiliated partners.

IOM provides telecom services to returnees to help them stay connected with family and relatives in South Sudan and Sudan.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

Revised Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) – May-December 2023

- On 4 September, UNHCR and 64 partner organisations published a revised inter-agency [Sudan Emergency Regional Refugee Response Plan – May to December 2023](#), which is appealing for **USD 1,004,761,770** to provide essential aid and protection to over 1.8 million people expected to arrive in five neighbouring countries by the end of 2023, fleeing ongoing conflict in Sudan. As of 31 October, total funding of USD 378.6 million has been recorded or **38%** of the funding requirements ([Refugee Funding Tracker](#)).

- RRP Summary: [Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan \(May-December 2023\) – At a Glance](#).

Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) – May-December 2023

- The revised inter-agency [Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\) for Sudan \(May-December 2023\)](#) requires **USD 2.57 billion** to help 18 million people. As of 31 October, the total funding for the HRP reached some USD 861.5 million or **33.6%** of the requirements ([OCHA FTS](#)).

Revised UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – May-December 2023

- On 4 September, UNHCR issued a revised [Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal \(May-December 2023\)](#) to reflect increased needs of **USD 506,528,613**. As of 31 October, the total available funding for the appeal was USD 154.4 million or **30%** of the funding requirements ([Sudan Situation Funding Update](#)).

Resources

- UNHCR's [Operational Data Portal \(ODP\) for the Sudan Situation](#) provides daily updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan's neighbouring countries.
- [UNHCR and IOM Joint Dashboard](#) of arrivals to South Sudan, including data on returnee intentions, onward movements, and numbers and locations of returnees in and around Renk.
- [UNHCR Global Focus Sudan Operation page](#)
- [UNHCR Sudan Emergency website](#)
- [Egypt-Sudan Regional RRP Progress Report-September 2023](#)
- UNHCR's HELP site for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Sudan provides information to individuals seeking information and support inside Sudan (in [English](#) and [Arabic](#)).

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