

SUDAN SITUATION

5-11 December 2023



UNHCR and partners at the Renk transit centre earlier this week during a donor mission. © UNHCR/ Juliette Murekeyisoni

Highlights

The ongoing clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that started on 15 April 2023 have continued for 240 days as of 11 December.

The 41st Extraordinary Assembly of the IGAD Heads of State and Government was held on 9 December, in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on the situation in Sudan. Cognizant of the aspiration of the Sudanese people for democratic governance, the IGAD summit [committed](#) to support a civilian-led inclusive political process that will elaborate the nature and structure of the Sudanese society and governance and move the country to a viable, civil democratic rule.

On 8 December, WHO [warned](#) of the rapid spread of disease outbreaks amid mass displacement and a lack of healthcare access. Within a month, cholera has spread from three to nine of Sudan's states, with over 5,400 suspected and confirmed cases and 170 deaths. Over 4,500 suspected measles cases and 104 deaths have been reported, along with over 6,000 cases of dengue and 56 related deaths. WHO stressed that insecurity and other hurdles continue to limit humanitarian access across the country. The situation in Darfur is "especially concerning," as violence and a lack of essentials continue to force people to seek safety in neighbouring Chad.

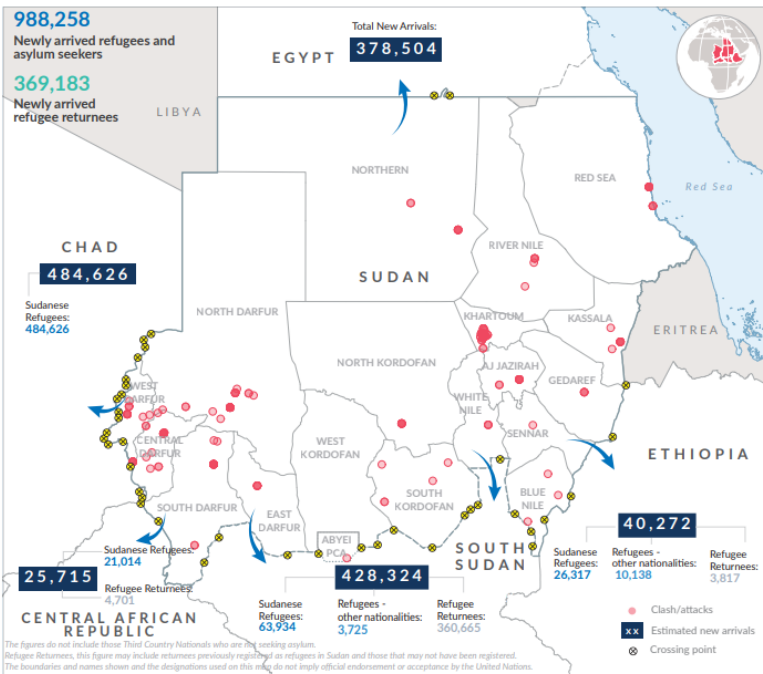
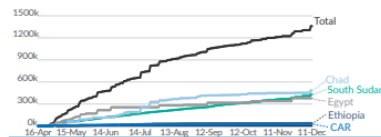
OVERVIEW: There are now nearly 7 million forcibly displaced due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan since April 2023, including 5.4 million internally and over 1.35 million in neighbouring countries. Sudan and neighbouring countries were already hosting large refugee populations before this new emergency and require additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance, including for those who have been secondarily displaced within Sudan. 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.

6,977,470 Forcibly Displaced
5,424,772 New IDPs in Sudan
1,357,441 Newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers and returnees
195,257 Self-relocated Refugees in Sudan

Arrivals by population and estimated gender type



New arrivals from Sudan



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- In response to the tragic attack on the ICRC humanitarian convoy on 10 December, the [Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan](#) reiterated calls on all parties to the conflict to respect the principles of international humanitarian law and ensure the safety of civilians and medical personnel, to immediately halt attacks on civilian infrastructure and medical facilities and to allow unrestricted humanitarian access to provide critical aid and medical assistance to affected populations.
- The cross-border convoy from Chad to Central Darfur to provide non-food items assistance to Um Shalaya refugee camp (ca. 2,000 NFI kits) has been postponed due to insecurity on the route into Sudan. UNHCR is liaising closely with UN security officials to determine the best timing for a secure convoy.

Operational Update

In the last week, 166 new asylum-seekers arrived in Kassala state from Eritrea through Galsa border point. Despite the situation in the country, arrival of new asylum-seekers in Kassala State continued to be regularly reported. Registration, verification, and refugee status determination processes are ongoing.

Spontaneous, irregular movements continue to be reported from eastern Sudan to neighbouring countries. In the past week, 13 Eritrean individuals were arrested in Jazirah State due to lack of documentation. A rapid protection assessment indicated that the individuals could be victims to smuggling or trafficking and were intending to leave to neighbouring countries. UNHCR will support the group to

return to Kassala State, enhance protection monitoring and strengthen messaging through community-based protection networks as mitigation measures.

UNHCR's partner Mutawinat conducted legal awareness raising session to IDPs in Dongola Northern State. The session aimed at creating awareness among IDPs on the procedure of obtaining and replacing identification documents and provided information on key legal services available.

In Central Darfur State, UNHCR's partner Danish Refugee Council provided psychosocial support sessions to 532 individuals in Um Dukhun, Golo and Mukjar localities. In Jazirah State, UNHCR's partner Plan International organized psychosocial support activities to children at mobile child friendly spaces in three gathering sites.

Health & Nutrition

In East Darfur State, health and nutrition services continue to be provided in refugee locations, but health centres face a limited supply of medical drugs. 2,234 patients received medical consultations in Kario, Al Nimir, and Abu Jabra refugee health centres..

WASH

In East Darfur State, UNHCR's partner Care International in Sudan (CIS) replaced one submersible pump and installed 25 water taps in Al Nimir refugee camp to support refugees' continued access to water. Additionally, CIS conducted hygiene promotion and cleaning campaigns in Al Nimir and Kario refugee camps.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Highlights

- As of 11 December, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) have biometrically registered a total of 10,423 Sudanese individuals (3,570 households). Since the beginning of the crisis, approximately 25,715 people have arrived in the Central African Republic (CAR) from Sudan. This includes 21,014 Sudanese refugees and 4,701 Central African returnees, with 89% comprising women and children.

Relocation

Since the beginning of the emergency, 2,467 people (1,260 households) have relocated to Korsi in Birao, where assistance is being delivered. UNHCR and CNR are strengthening monitoring and registration mechanisms for new arrivals at the site. Despite the temporary suspension of the assisted relocation to Korsi in July, due to the rainy season rendering roads impassable, refugees continued to arrive at the site on their own to seek assistance.

Protection

UNHCR's partner INTERSOS recorded 39 protection cases during the week. Persons with special needs, including persons with disabilities and unaccompanied and separated children, are being identified and referred to service providers for assistance. Since the beginning of the response to the crisis, 589 persons with special needs have been identified, including unaccompanied and separated children and women and men in need of protection. They have been referred to relevant services and are being followed up.

During the reporting period, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS conducted 34 monitoring visits with refugees and host communities in 6 locations in Tambaye District and Birao Health District. The monitoring allows for the identification of protection cases for assistance and referral to other relevant services. In addition, five survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) were identified, including cases of physical assault, sexual

assault, forced marriage, rape, and psychological and emotional violence. Survivors were referred to relevant medical and legal services.

At the "Ma Mbi Si" listening center, 8 individual counseling sessions were conducted with people with special needs. This included breastfeeding mothers in difficult living conditions and GBV survivors.

Four awareness-raising sessions were held in Korsi to disseminate the complaint management mechanism established to allow refugees to report issues to the actors intervening on site. The sessions reached 310 people. The complaint management and feedback mechanism, allowed for the collection of 15 complaints during the reporting period, including reports on protection incidents, as well as feedback and requests for information on shelter, basic assistance, food security and durable solutions.

UNHCR, in collaboration with its partners, organized a training for young refugees and the host community as part of the 16 days of activism campaign against violence against women and girls. The discussion topics included: overview of the days of activism, intervention on human rights and the rights and duties of Refugees, as well as intervention by NOURRIR on HIV, and another by INTERSOS on peaceful coexistence. At the end of the training, the two communities through their presidents (a young Sudanese refugee and another one from the host community) recommended organizing monthly meetings between them on peaceful coexistence to avoid possible cohabitation problems. This training had the participation of 53 young people from the two communities.

Education

UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS organized two trainings on mental health and psychosocial support in schools this week. The first training benefitted 50 teachers and administrators, including 6 women, from the primary schools of the host community. The second training was organized for 48 youth, including 16 women, from both the refugee and host community. The youth included young people from the Refugee Youth Committee as well as from the Psychosocial Support Team, a network of refugees and host-community youth who have been trained to identify, support, and refer protection cases in schools and Child Friendly Spaces in the refugee site and community.

UNHCR's partner INTERSOS organized a door-to-door awareness-raising campaign this week in two host-community neighborhoods on the theme, "Enrolment of children in school and the importance of education in our lives." This week's mobilization reached 603 people (56% women) including 390 parents and 213 children. Since the beginning of the response, education-related community mobilization campaigns have reached 5,720 refugees and host-community members in Birao.

The school-based Psychosocial Support Team trained by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS identified three cases of GBV this week through the school-based child protection referral mechanisms created in the host-community schools attended by Sudanese refugees. All cases benefitted from active listening and social support from the PSS Focal Points, and then were referred for further psychological or medical care and case management with the appropriate structures.

This week a total of 212 children and adolescents (46% girls) participated in recreational and psychosocial support activities at the Child Friendly Space in Korsi managed by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS. This week's attendance included 50 more children compared to last week.

All education activities are being made possible thanks to the generous support of Education Cannot Wait through its First Emergency Response grant for Sudanese refugees in Central African Republic.

Health and Nutrition

NOURRIR, International Medical Corps, OHG-DS (Homme de Galille), WHO and the Birao Health District carried out 255 medical consultations during the reporting period, including 156 with children aged 0-5 years. Malaria, digestive bacterial and acute respiratory infections are the main pathologies recorded. In total, 2,340 medical consultations have been conducted and a total of 29 deliveries were assisted in Korsi.

A total of 1,141 host community members and 635 Sudanese children aged 6-59 months were screened and treated for malnutrition. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) is reported to be 16.9%, while severe acute malnutrition (SAM) is reported to be 5%. To date, 121 children aged 6-59 months have been treated through the nutritional rehabilitation program at the Korsi site.

1,527 hot meals were distributed in Korsi during the reporting period.

WASH

A total of 105 latrines and 104 emergency showers are now operational in Am-Dafock and Korsi. Community groups have been established in various blocks of Korsi to ensure the hygiene of the site and of the sanitation infrastructure, including water points.

UNHCR and its partner NOURRIR distributed 40,000 litres of water per day in Korsi to 2,467 Sudanese refugee households.

CHAD

Highlights

- This past week, 288 new arrivals, mostly women and children, crossed the Chadian border through the Tine border crossing point. They informed UNHCR and partners that they came from Nyala and El Fasher and fled the massive presence of the RSF in their localities. At the Adré border post 2,426 new individuals were recorded crossing into Chad.
- The Government of Chad reports that a total of 484,626 new arrivals (140,950) households have entered the country since the start of the emergency.

Relocation

The relocation from Adré refugee spontaneous site to the Alacha new refugee camp, which began on 30 November, continued throughout the reporting period. A total of 10 convoys have been organized so far, with a total of 9,270 refugees (2,508 households) relocated to Alacha.

A total of 191,501 individuals (51,536 households) have been relocated from the border areas to refugee camps and provided protection and assistance since the start of the emergency. The needs of the new arrivals remain enormous and are essentially shelter, latrines, water, health, schools and educational materials, and other protection services including family reunification.

Protection

The individual biometric registration exercise continued during the week under review with a total of 7,331 individuals of 1,621 households (Djabal Refugee Camp: 2,483 individuals), Arkoum (4,848 individuals) biometrically registered. This brings the total number of new arrivals registered to 129,566 individuals of 36,072 households as of 8 December 2023, 86% of them are women and children and 18% have specific needs.

Health and Nutrition

Since the beginning of the emergency, a total of 220,910 medical consultations have been conducted, including 12,114 consultations in the past week. The most common health issues remain malaria, acute respiratory infections, watery diarrhoea, and malnutrition.

During the reporting period, 161,634 children were screened for malnutrition. A total of 20,958 cases of children aged 6 to 59 months were treated for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), and 11,650 for severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Out of 23,397 children screened last week, 998 were identified and treated for MAM and 413 for SAM.

16,235 pregnant and lactating women were screened, and 2,152 out of them were treated for MAM. Last week, 1,697 pregnant women were screened including 575 identified with MAM.

A total of 3,078 deliveries were attended to by qualified personnel since the start of the emergency, including 197 deliveries last week.

7,902 mental health cases have been received for consultation and treated since the start of the emergency, including 175 new cases last week.

MSF Switzerland has established a cold chain at the Ourang and the Adré sites. This facility will also serve IRC as part of the routine Expanded Vaccination Program (EPI). Last week we reported that routine vaccination (Expanded Vaccination Program (EPI)) had commenced in the Metché Refugee Camp (Ouaddai Province) and that MSF Switzerland and MSF Spain in agreement with the district health authorities will provide vaccines for the refugee sites in Metché and Ourang.

Shelter Infrastructure and WASH

In Alacha, 200 emergency family shelters were finalized by the Chadian Red Cross (CRT); 92 latrines by OXFAM and 67 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) were installed by the African Initiative for Relief and Development (AIRD) this week. This brings the total number of shelters constructed to 45,655; the total number of latrines and showers to 6,206; and the total number of RHUs installed to 1,107 since the start of the emergency.

EGYPT

Highlights

- A total of 370,000 Sudanese and 8,504 individuals of other nationalities, totaling some 378,504 people, have crossed into Egypt since the start of the Sudan crisis according to the Government of Egypt.
- UNHCR has so far registered 120,500 new arrivals from Sudan - 90 percent Sudanese.
- UNHCR delivered a 10,000-liter water tank, among other essential items, to enhance the Argeen crossing point, on the Egypt-Sudan border.
- UNHCR has already delivered emergency cash assistance to some 46,000 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers since the onset of the conflict in Sudan.

Registration and Protection

Registration: Since the start of the conflict, UNHCR has provided pre-registration appointments to 180,001 new arrivals as of 8 December, of whom 120,524 individuals (67%), are fully registered. Most of the registered population are Sudanese nationals (90%), while the other main nationalities registered are South Sudanese (4%), and Eritrean (3%). The great majority of new arrivals registered still originate from Khartoum (89%), and 22% of those registered have one or more specific needs, among which 73% is on grounds of lacking legal documentation and 8% are children at risk of not attending school.

Community-based Protection: During the last week, refugee outreach workers provided support to some 5,300 new arrivals from Sudan at UNHCR's Reception Centre in Cairo on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. Furthermore, UNHCR partner PSTIC (Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo) provided counseling to 3,700 refugees and asylum-seekers and referred 27 cases for in-depth assessment.

Infoline: 14,150 inquiries were handled by UNHCR's Infoline last week and registration appointments given to 10,300 individuals. This brings the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the system to 96,500. Following the merging of the Cairo and Alexandria lines and the hiring of additional agents, the average number of calls per day has tripled compared to pre-crisis levels.

Water

Since the start of the Sudan crisis, UNHCR has played an integral role in bolstering the infrastructure and amenities at the Argeen crossing point on the Egypt-Sudan border. In November 2023, UNHCR contributed essential items to enhancing the border facilities, including a 10,000-liter water tank, a water

pump for the well, and two sewage pumps. Notably, while the water supplied is non-potable and designated for washing and toilet use, this allows arriving refugees to have access to these essential facilities at the border. Additionally, office equipment and materials were provided to the Argeen migration authorities, including printers, fans, and chairs.

Cash Assistance

UNHCR continues to deliver cash assistance to new arrivals from Sudan. Last week, UNHCR provided emergency cash assistance to 1,659 people. Since the onset of the Sudan conflict, UNHCR has identified 45,984 people (16,286) as eligible for one-off emergency cash assistance, all of whom have already been assisted.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- As of 10 December, a total of 40,272 refugees and asylum-seekers including 3,817 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have fled violence in Sudan and arrived in Ethiopia.
- In Metema, Amhara Region, UNHCR, in close collaboration with the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and IOM, has successfully relocated 303 refugee families of 651 persons from the point of entry to the transit center.
- In Kurmuk, Benishagul Gumuz Region (BGR), a Multi-Functional Team (MFT) undertook an assessment for the location of a new settlement in Akuda Tumet Kebele in Ura woreda. The MFT was comprised of RRS and local authorities and UNHCR.
- A UNHCR registration team was deployed to Kurmuk for a verification exercise related to the distribution of cash assistance by UNICEF.

Population Movements

As of 10 December, 40,272 refugees and asylum-seekers including 3,817 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia. Of these, 19,504 crossed through the Metema entry point, 17,301 through the Kurmuk entry point and 700 individuals through different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey). Most of the new arrivals are Sudanese (65.3 per cent) followed by Eritreans (20.7 per cent), Ethiopian returnees (9.5 per cent) and South Sudanese (4.2 per cent).

Registration and Protection

Registration: At Metema entry point, level one registration (L1) is being conducted to facilitate refugees access to basic assistance and protection. This past week, 37 asylum-seekers were registered. Level 3 registration (L3) registration started on 3 December in Kumer site with the coordination of RRS and support from UNHCR. In Kumer 2,291 individuals / 1,206 families were registered through L3 and received proof of registration.

Child Protection: Community social workers and community-based structures identified and registered 13 separated children during the reporting week in Kurmuk. The children benefited from the comprehensive child protection case management and related services at the transit center including undergoing a Rapid Best Interest Assessment (BIA). Thus far, out of the total 627 children undergoing case management, a total of 48 children have gone through the rapid BIA.

A total of 8 cases involving children in need of medical attention and family tracing have been referred to RRS and the Red Cross.

A total of 415 children participated in indoor and outdoor recreational activities at the emergency Child-Friendly Space (CFS) set up at the Kurmuk transit center. High energy biscuits are also being provided for children attending the child friendly space on a daily basis.

Prevention and response to Gender Based Violence: In Kumer, the Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC) conducted an awareness session focusing on the cause, type, and consequence

of Gender Based Violence (GBV), at entry points, transit sites and Kumer site using community gathering and IEC material. 980 individuals were reached. In addition, 4 mobile outreach campaigns were conducted in Tigrigna and Arabic at the entry point and transit site to combat GBV and ensure timely access to quality services for survivors. In addition, DICAC provided dignity kits for girls and women in need, as well as counseling and case management. In Kurmuk, sexual and reproductive health services continued to be offered at the transit center. Health social workers visited some 464 individuals (233 women, 231 men) during house-to-house visits. Discussion focused on reproductive health services.

Education

In Kurmuk, teaching and learning activities were ongoing with an attendance rate of 92%. By introducing uniform forms for attendance, registration, and lesson planning, the Plan International team has enhanced documentation standards. Education in Emergency officers oversaw and provided technical support to all five incentive teachers.

Health and nutrition response

Health: In Kumer, Medical Teams International (MTI) continued to deliver primary healthcare services, including outpatient consultations, family planning and counselling at the Health Post. Throughout the reporting week, the team conducted medical consultations for a total of 497 individuals. Additionally, the psychiatrist provided support to 67 people for mental health concerns and identified four cases requiring mental health counseling and support. In this reporting week, 120 children were assisted with psychosocial support in World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) child friendly space in Kumer site.

In Kurmuk, health services were being provided at the transit center. Clinical consultation services were provided to 437 patients in total, among whom 91 were children under the age of five.

Nutrition: A total 133 children below the age of five and 47 pregnant and breastfeeding women underwent malnutrition screening in Kumer and Kurmuk, identifying 21 cases of MAM and 3 SAM cases.

UNHCR, through Plan International, provided High Energy Biscuits (HEB) for 313 refugees and returnees; and hot meals for 204 new arrivals.

WASH

In Kumer site, UNHCR in collaboration with WASH partners provided an average of 81 m3 of portable water to 9,712 refugees and members of the local community.

In Kurmuk, the treatment and distribution of water ran smoothly during the reporting period. However, with the dry season, the level of water at the pond is dramatically decreasing and will likely not last until the next rainy season. Limited availability of water and pressure around such a resource is likely to affect the peaceful coexistence between communities.

Site development, Shelter, CRIs

In Kurmuk, RRS, local authorities and UNHCR conducted a comprehensive assessment of the new site identified for newly arrived refugees in the Akuda Tumet Kebele in Ura Woreda. The land is located near to Assosa town and a safe distance of 64km from the official border entry point.

SOUTH SUDAN

Information to be shared as soon as it is available.

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 11 December, total funding of USD 375 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 27 November, the total funding for the HRP reached some USD 998.4 million or **38.9%** 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 11 December, the total available funding for the appeal was USD 166.3 million or **33%** 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](#)
- 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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