

SUDAN SITUATION

7-13 March 2024



Registration being carried out for new Sudanese arrivals in Mboki, Central African Republic (CAR). ©UNHCR/CAR

Highlights

- Ongoing clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have continued since the outbreak of conflict in April 2023.
- UNHCR's [High Commissioner welcomed](#) the resumption of cross-border operations following the [announcement](#) on 5 March by the UN Sudan Humanitarian Coordinator that the Sudanese Government would facilitate humanitarian access from Chad through the Tine border crossing into Darfur, from South Sudan through the Renk border crossing to Kosti in White Nile State, and through humanitarian flights accessing airports in El Fasher (North Darfur), Kadugli (South Kordofan), and El Obeid (North Kordofan). This news marks a positive step forward in the delivery of essential aid to those in need inside Sudan.
- The brutal war in Sudan is pushing the country toward famine and a catastrophic loss of life, especially among children. In what is now the world's largest child displacement crisis, severe malnutrition among young children is intensifying beyond the worst projections, and there are outbreaks of cholera, measles and malaria. [UNICEF Statement](#)
- On 12 March, the World Food Programme (WFP) [warned](#) that its lifesaving programmes in Chad will come to a halt in a matter of weeks. This will force assistance to be suspended in April for 1.2 million Sudanese refugees and crisis-affected people in Chad, due to funding

shortfalls. This comes as thousands of Sudanese refugees continue to stream across the border from Darfur, and as the rainy season looms and threatens to cut off road access for humanitarian deliveries to the camps in the east of the country – where hundreds of thousands of Sudanese refugees have sought shelter.

- On 9 March, the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) [met](#) with the African Union (AU) high-level delegation on Sudan, led by Mohammed Ibn Chambas. They discussed ways of advancing the Sudan peace process and enhancing the collaboration between IGAD and the AU.
- The UN Security Council on 8 March adopted a [resolution on Sudan](#), calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities in the war-torn country during the month of Ramadan.

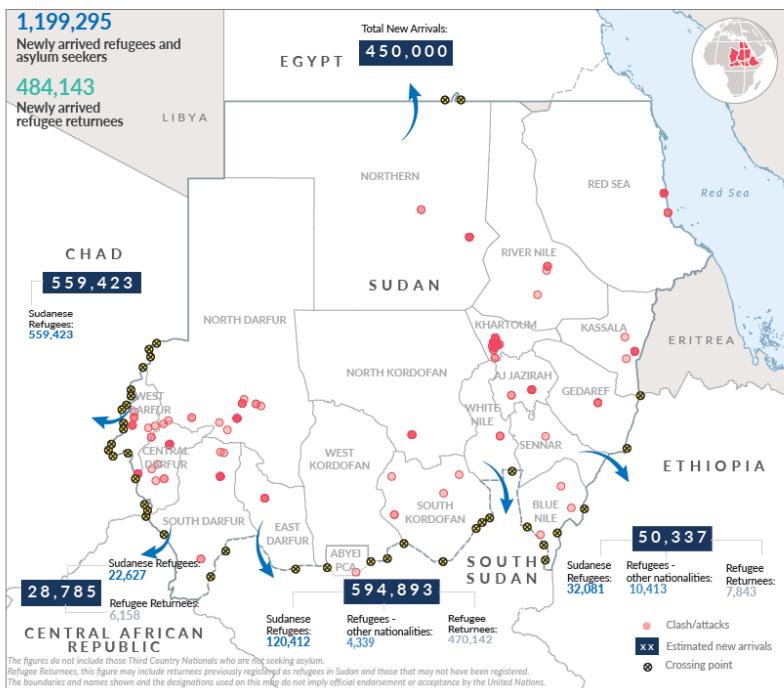
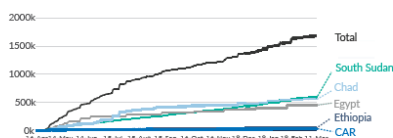
OVERVIEW: There are now 8.3 million forcibly displaced due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan since April 2023, including 6.4 million internally and 1.7 million in neighbouring countries. Sudan and neighbouring countries were already hosting large refugee populations before this new emergency and require 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.

8,276,647 Forcibly Displaced
6,397,698 New IDPs in Sudan
1,683,438 Newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers and returnees
195,511 Self-relocated Refugees in Sudan

Arrivals by population and estimated gender type



New arrivals from Sudan



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- During the reporting period, the security situation in Sudan remained volatile and concerning, with multiple areas experiencing escalating military engagement and violence. Clashes, artillery exchanges, and aerial strikes persisted in urban areas including Khartoum, Omdurman, and Khartoum North, indicating ongoing instability. Armed engagements are also reported in Al Gezirah, White Nile, Sennar, North Darfur and West Kordofan. Crime rates, in various forms, are on the rise in major towns and along main supply routes, posing further challenges to security. The challenges and complexities facing humanitarian efforts in Sudan continue in this context.

Population movements and Registration

During the reporting period, a total of 138 individuals arrived in eastern Sudan, including 134 asylum-seekers from Eritrea (113), Ethiopia (17) and Somalia (7). They arrived in Kassala through the Galsa and Gergef entry points. Additionally, four refugees arrived in Gedaref through the Gallabat border. Also, a total of 238 individuals were registered (201 in Kassala and 37 in Gedaref) by COR and UNHCR.

Due to renewed clashes in Al Jazirah, Sennar, and small parts of Gedaref state, as well as the fear of further escalation of the armed conflict, internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to arrive in Gedaref and Kassala States. According to [IOM DTM](#), over 594,000 IDPs are hosted in Gedaref and Kassala as of 5 March 2024.

During the reporting period, UNHCR learned through protection monitoring, as well as from community leaders that 125 IDPs, mostly women and children, spontaneously returned to their habitual places of residence in Khartoum State, including Omdurman, Bahri, Sharg An Neel, Haj Yousif, and Khartoum South. Reasons cited for their return included the inability to access basic services and fatigue from living in dire displacement conditions.

During the reporting period, White Nile State has experienced a steady increase in new arrivals. A total of 834 families, comprising 5,920 individuals, sought refuge in the camps. According to camp managers, the new arrivals fled from Jazirah State due to the ongoing conflict.

Population movements have been reported along the Chad-Sudan border at Tina, North Darfur, and West Darfur. Forty households, comprising 120 individuals, along with 123 families from El Fasher, crossed into Chad via the Tina border. Additionally, 1,000 others crossed into Chad from Beida, West Darfur, due to insecurity and the hardships in Sudan, particularly the lack of food and basic services.

Eleven Somali individuals were relocated from Shagarab refugee camp in Kassala to Gedaref by IOM under the voluntary return program. IOM will then facilitate the group's onward departure from Gedaref to Somalia via Ethiopia. This is the first group to voluntarily return to their countries of origin so far in 2024.

Protection

In Wadi Halfa, 497 internally displaced persons (IDPs) approached the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) protection desk. Among them, 17 individuals were classified as Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs). Seventeen were referred to receive food, six were referred to receive Core Relief Items (CRIs), eight with serious medical conditions were referred to the hospital, and four were referred to receive psychosocial support.

During the reporting period, UNHCR provided counselling to 56 individuals in Kassala and Gedaref states. In Kassala, concerns raised include feedback on resettlement, economic hardship, medical assistance and legal aid. Proper protection counselling and referral were conducted to respond to each case. In Gedaref, UNHCR urban counselling desk handled 25 cases (20 females, 5 males). The cases concerned issues related to resettlement, livelihood opportunities, updating family statistics and legal inquiries.

In Kassala State, UNHCR's legal aid partner Mutawinat monitored 21 cases under various allegations including human trafficking and illegal entry to Sudan. Two cases were provided with legal aid, 12 individuals were released from prison in various locations, and 24 individuals were handed over to Commission of Refugees (COR) for processing of asylum applications. In addition, Mutawinat provided language interpretation assistance to four cases in court and at police stations, and legal counselling to 104 cases in Kassala State.

Community-based Protection

UNHCR conducted training for 48 members of the Community-Based Protection Network (CBPN). The training focused on a human rights-based approach within the context of displacement in Wadi Halfa.

In Adila settlement, East Darfur State, 92 South Sudanese refugees participated in a sensitization forum organized by women representatives from Community-Based Protection Networks and partner World Vision. The forum focused on raising awareness about child labor, exploitation, and abuse as part of community-based protection interventions led by established community networks.

Child Protection

In Kassala State, UNHCR conducted regular visits to monitor the situation of 35 unaccompanied children who have transitioned out of the unaccompanied centre and living under alternative living arrangements in Shagarab refugee camp. Seven collective counselling sessions were conducted on self-protection and healthy social behavior and conducts. Six unaccompanied children were reported to have spontaneously left their shelters during the week. This was reported to concerned local authorities in the camp. Moreover, two children were referred to the hospital for medical treatment.

In Dabat Bosin and Alagaya refugee camps in White Nile State, protection teams also conducted community awareness on child protection and gender-based violence, reaching 350 refugee communities in two camps.

Education

Due to the increased number of school-aged children resulting from the displacement to White Nile State, the operation is actively working to enrol an estimated 5,000 students. To achieve this, education committees and Community-Based Protection Networks (CBPNs) across the camps are conducting back-to-school campaigns. These initiatives aim to address the urgent need for education and raise awareness about the importance of schooling within the displaced community.

Health and Nutrition

In Gedaref State, the HIV/AIDS treatment and care was previously reported as a gap due to the exit of the operational partner Sudan Family Planning Association (SFPA) in December 2023. However, SFPA has since resumed its services, initially through a mobile approach while rehabilitation of its facility is ongoing. UNHCR's own implementing partner MTI is supporting HIV outreach services in Babikri refugee camp.

In Kassala, UNHCR provided medicines and medical items for orphaned children previously sheltered at the Mygoma Center in Khartoum. The children were rescued by UNICEF from Khartoum in June 2023 then hosted at a transit center in Wad Madani. They were again displaced due to the conflict in Al Jazirah State and are presently sheltered in Kassala.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

During the reporting period in Gedaref State, 10,880 IDPs in Doka locality received clothing items. In total, over 107,000 donated clothing items have been distributed to more than 47,000 individuals in the state.

In Gedaref State, UNHCR, through its partner Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery (SORR), distributed shelter kits to 35 households, comprising 107 displaced individuals from Khartoum and Al Jazirah states. Additionally, CRIs were distributed to 135 individuals, including 31 individuals referred by protection partners and 41 individuals displaced from Sennar state.

In East Darfur State, 5,000 families consisting of refugees (2,189), IDPs (1,828), and the host community (983) received CRIs, including plastic tarpaulins and mosquito nets distributed by UNHCR partner World Vision. The distribution was coordinated by Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), COR, and the Ministry of Health and Social Development.

Over 3,800 plastic sheets, 1,000 mosquito nets, and medical supplies were successfully transported from El Fasher, North Darfur State to Nyala, South Darfur State, in coordination with partner World Vision and HAC. The medical supplies will address healthcare gaps in health centres in 3 refugee settlements, while the NFIs will be distributed to IDPs and host communities in the coming week.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Gedaref, during the reporting period, UNHCR completed the distribution of hygiene kits to women and girls, reaching a total of 5,190 women and girls of reproductive age in Um Rakuba (4,355) and Um Gargour (835) refugee camps. Additionally, soap was distributed to the general population, reaching a total of 11,890 individuals in Um Gargour refugee camp. The distribution of six-month hygiene items is completed, benefiting over 51,000 individuals across the four refugee camps.

Water delivery continues in all refugee camps. The average water provision in refugee camps in Kassala and Gedaref states stood at 21 litres/person/day and 24 litres/person/day respectively which exceeds the minimum standards. However, during the reporting period a reduction in water productivity in Um Gargour refugee camp in Gedaref State was reported due to two damaged water bladders. UNHCR and its WASH partner CARE International connected the affected taps directly to the distribution system to mitigate this while a more sustainable solution is being sought and an investigation of the damage is conducted.

The Water and Environmental Sanitation Office (WES) continues to operate and maintain water systems in the ten camps of White Nile State, ensuring that 430,000 refugees and host communities receive an average of 11 liters of water per person per day, which is below standard. The partner has also intensified its water quality monitoring in response to reported cholera cases in other areas of the state. Unfortunately, ongoing fuel shortages in the state are threatening the consistent provision of water services.

Personal hygiene kits (PHKs) were distributed to two camps, Khor Al Waral and Joure, reaching 15,082 women and girls of reproductive age. Efforts are ongoing to deliver additional PHKs from Gadarif to cover the needs of the remaining eight camps.

Cash Assistance

The inter-agency emergency team continued multi-purpose cash assistance distribution in Round 2 at gathering sites in Rabak locality of White Nile State, reaching 790 households (4,660 individuals). Additionally, 120 commode chairs were distributed to elderly and individuals with specific needs at the Kor Ajwal IDP site in Al Jablain locality.

IT and Telecoms

The nationwide disruption of telecommunication and internet networks since early February is gradually showing signs of improvement, enhancing communication capabilities in the country. Telecom providers such as Sudani and Zain are back in service; however, MTN services remain down.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Highlights

- The Vakaga prefecture, which continues to receive most Sudanese refugees, is facing significant security challenges due to the presence of armed actors, who have been disrupting civilian lives and humanitarian efforts in the region.
- The population in Korsi has reached 9,539 refugees (4,247 households). Since January, 6,374 Sudanese (2,870 households) have arrived in Korsi. The trend in March is 70 arrivals per day compared to 37 in February and 146 in January.

Population Movements and Registration

As of 2 March, UNHCR and the CAR government had documented 28,785 people who had arrived from Sudan since April 2023, including 22,627 Sudanese refugees and 6,158 Central African returnees. In addition to the Vakaga prefecture, which hosts the most significant number of Sudanese refugees in CAR, other refugees have settled in five other prefectures (Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Ouaka and Mbomou).

Protection

234 people with special needs were registered during the reporting week, including single parents (46%), women at risk (23%), and unaccompanied or separated children (14%). They have all been referred to different service providers for follow-up and protection response.

IOM distributed 200 dignity kits to women and girls who had completed their group therapy sessions in the listening centre, including 190 women aged between 18-50 years and 10 girls under 18 years old).

Protection monitoring

INTERSOS carried out 35 monitoring visits this week, including 17 within the Birao host community and 18 in Korsi. As a result of the monitoring visits, 31 protection incidents were identified and documented, including (i) property rights violations, (ii) violations of the right to life/physical integrity, and (iii) sexual and gender-based violence. In terms of the response provided, out of 21 incidents linked to human rights violations, two cases of assault and physical violence were referred to International Medical Corps (IMC) and Bria Hospital, and victims benefited from medical assistance.

UNHCR partner INTERSOS conducted 24 perception surveys within the refugee community, and the respondents reported needing shelters, NFI kits, and food. In addition, 23 complaints and requests for information were collected at the Information and Feedback Center, including nine on protection, five on the coordination of Korsi, eight on food security, and one on health. All the complaints and requests for information received feedback during the week.

Prevention & Response against gender-based violence (GBV)

INTERSOS carried out two group therapy and awareness-raising sessions in the "safe space" available in Korsi, on respecting women's equality rights as part of this year's celebration of International Women's Day (IWD). These sessions reached 150 people, including 60 women and 90 girls.

As case management, INTERSOS intervened by responding to 10 new reported and recorded GBV cases by providing psychosocial support to the survivors and medical referral to IMC for clinical treatment. Five previous cases were also followed up at the listening centre.

At the Birao Hospital Safe Space, *Olivier Homme de Galilée*, a UNFPA partner, conducted awareness-raising campaigns against GBV, reaching 587 people, including 127 Sudanese refugees. Additionally, 274 survivors, including 54 refugees, were supported with GBV services (case management, referrals, and psychosocial support) at the Birao Hospital.

Community-based Protection

As part of this year's celebration of International Women's Rights Day, UNHCR, together with partners, organised a distribution of 292 (as of 11 March) dignity kits to women and girls of childbearing age in Birao, a peaceful march, a community meal and focus group discussions with refugee and host community women, local authorities and other humanitarian actors working in Birao. In addition, a joint UNHCR and INTERSOS mission travelled to Am Dafock, with the support of MINUSCA who escorted the mission, to celebrate the day with refugees and host communities in the border area and monitor protection at the border.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

In the reporting week, INTERSOS held three counselling sessions with newly arrived persons with special needs. To date, the Korsi listening centre has received 72 persons with special needs, including seven separated children from their parents. The activities conducted in the safe space enable newly arrived refugees and other people with special needs, especially women and girls, to share their thoughts and improve their emotional well-being affected by the crisis.

Education

During the reporting week, construction continued of two administrative buildings and 18 latrines at two elementary schools and one secondary school for refugee children.

Preparations are underway to re-open child-friendly spaces in elementary schools in Birao and Korsi. Teachers are also being trained in child protection and the prevention of GBV in schools.

The community mobilisation campaign to enroll out-of-school children continued this week, reaching 440 people.

91 school kits were distributed to children absent from last week's distribution, bringing the total number of school kits distributed to newly enrolled children during the last two weeks to 313.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

Between 24 February to 1 March, UNHCR partner NOURRIR has built 150 new emergency shelters in Korsi to accommodate the new arrivals.

Mercy Corps distributed 200 CRI kits to newly arrived families in Korsi. The kits include sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets, buckets, kitchen set kits, jerry cans, soap, and solar panel lamps.

Health and Nutrition

The February WFP dry food distribution was completed during the reporting period. A total of 7,480 people were served.

NOURRIR distributed 8,016 hot meals with food donated by the WFP (an average of 1,145 daily dishes served). NOURRIR also prepared and distributed 4,972 breakfasts (an average of 710 daily dishes).

NOURRIR and International Medical Corps (IMC) conducted 909 medical consultations, which also benefitted 77 host community members. Out of these, 89 patients who received an RDV for follow-up were last week's cases. Since the beginning of the year, 7,502 curative consultations have been carried out in Korsi, including 879 former patients from 2023 who needed medical follow-up. 825 beneficiaries of these consultations are members of the host community. The three leading causes of morbidity recorded were acute respiratory infections (17.27%), intestinal parasitosis (15.18%) and malaria (14.30%). All these patients were treated on an outpatient basis.

The obstetrics and gynecology team received 37 prenatal and 30 gynecological consultations and three deliveries. Lastly, 12 children received multi-antigen vaccines this week, and 11 pregnant women received tetanus vaccines.

During the week, 160 Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases in children aged 06 to 59 months were documented and enrolled at the nutritional management center. Since the beginning of the year, the nutritional management program has treated 360 children for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) who have received and 29 others for severe acute malnutrition (SAM). After mass nutritional screening, all identified children suffering from MAM benefited from nutrition inputs.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

During the reporting period, 20 emergency latrines and 20 emergency showers were built in Korsi and are operational.

NOURRIR conducted awareness-raising activities on hygiene and sanitation promotion in Korsi, including in blocs receiving new arrivals. The week's topics reached 319 refugees and included good practices in drinking water (the water chain), treatment with organic products in emergency latrines, and disinfection.

CHAD

Highlights

- On 10 March, Chad's former opposition leader and incumbent Prime Minister, [declared](#) he will be running in the 6 May presidential elections.
- The Ministry of the Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, as part of the ALBIÄ Project (meaning "environment" in local Arabic,) financed by the World Bank, paid a working visit from 6-7 March to Iriba. The mission discussed reforestation, energy, drilling of additional boreholes, and water supply activities with administrative and traditional authorities, refugee committees, and host villages. Such efforts are needed to protect the environment, especially in refugee-hosting communities, and to avoid inter-communal conflict due to limited resources.

Population movements and Registration

In the last week, a total of 1,898 individuals (460 households) crossed over into Chad, predominantly women and children. This is a 34% increase from the previous week. A significant number of them mentioned experiencing food shortages as the Holy month of Ramadan started in their areas of origin, alongside concerns about insecurity.

In Metché, Zabout and Arkoum refugee sites, 76,700 individuals (20,421 households) have been registered. This brings the number of registered refugees to 442,616 (117,247 households) since the start of the emergency.

Relocation

1,694 new arrivals (383 households) were relocated from Djatak to Milé refugee site during the reporting period. A total of 252,796 refugees (68,971 households) have been relocated since the start of emergency.

Protection

45 new gender-based violence (GBV) incidents were reported in the four provinces of Ouadaï, Wadi-Fira, Sila and Enni Est. All the cases received psychosocial support and referrals to different service providers. In addition, 1,220 dignity kits provided by UNHCR were distributed to refugee women and girls residing in the Alacha refugee site as part of mitigating the risks of GBV. In total, 839 GBV cases have been reported for the new Sudanese caseload since the crisis began on 15 April 2023.

On prevention, UNHCR and partners in Chad took advantage of the International Women's Day celebration to raise awareness on various gender-based violence topics such as women's rights, early and/or forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), the challenge of schooling of girls etc. The awareness-raising and discussions reached more than 4,929 people, including men, women, boys, and girls.

To support the refugee security wardens in the refugee sites, UNHCR and partners provided working materials in the Metché, Arkoum and Alacha refugee sites, including training to capacitate them to work closely with the police. The refugee community leaders also benefited from awareness-raising campaigns on the rights and duties and the need to promote peaceful coexistence with the refugee-host communities.

Education

More than 36,500 children, including more than 600 Chadians, are registered in the 81 temporary learning centers (TLS) built in the 4 new refugee sites (Zabout, Ourang, Metché and Arkoum) and the extension sites.

306 refugee teachers have been recruited, including 224 trained by partners (Jesuit Refugee Services, Plan International, Norwegian Refugee Council) in collaboration with UNHCR and the decentralized units of the Ministry of National Education and Civic Promotion.

Health and Nutrition

A total 393,418 medical consultations have been carried out since the start of the emergency, including 21,703 during the reporting week. Malaria, acute respiratory infections, watery diarrhoea, and malnutrition remained the most common pathologies.

A total of 345,247 children were screened since the start of the emergency; of which 33,184 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 16,084 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated for children aged 6 to 59 months. During the reporting week, 21,523 children were screened, of which 1,451 cases of MAM and 380 SAM.

26,804 pregnant and breastfeeding women were screened, and 3,590 cases of MAM were treated. A total of 2,354 pregnant women were screened during the reporting week, including 304 cases of MAM.

Qualified health personnel have attended to 5,361 deliveries since the start of the emergency, with 220 deliveries recorded during the reporting week.

13,847 mental health cases were received for consultation and treatment, including 149 new cases.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

202 shelters have been allocated out of the 517 planned for the Kerfi site, and 97 emergency latrine-shower blocks were completed there.

59,465 shelters have been built in eastern Chad since the start of the emergency.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

11,688 latrines have been built in eastern Chad since the start of the emergency.

A 12m³ borehole was dug at the Farchana refugee site by the non-governmental organization (NGO) *Association la Plume pour la Culture et le Développement* (APCD) with funding from the ALNAJAT Charity NGO from Kuwait.

EGYPT

Highlights

- 450,000 Sudanese and 8,827 individuals of other nationalities, totaling 458,827 people, crossed into Egypt since the start of the Sudan crisis, according to the latest figures received by UNHCR from the Government of Egypt.
- Last week, UNHCR registered 9,800 new asylum-seekers who have fled the current conflict in Sudan, bringing the total to more than 203,500 since the start of the crisis. This weekly figure is the highest since the start of the crisis. Additionally, 16,600 individuals received registration appointments last week, totaling 418,000 since April 2023.

Population Movements and Registration

As of 7 March, UNHCR Egypt had provided pre-registration appointments to 418,015 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of them, 203,541 individuals have already been fully registered (49 per cent). UNHCR is working to increase its capacity to meet the demand. Most of the registered population are Sudanese nationals (93 per cent), while the other main nationalities registered are South Sudanese (3 per cent), and Eritrean (3 per cent). In terms of new arrival registration trends, both female and female heads of households remain at 53 per cent. The vast majority of new arrivals registered still originate from Khartoum (89 per cent), and 21 per cent of those registered have one or more specific needs. Concerns remain about the continued rise of those who report crossing irregularly into Egypt among the new arrivals registered.

Protection

Community-based Protection

Over the last week, refugee outreach workers provided information to some 4,800 refugees and asylum-seekers from Sudan at UNHCR's Reception Centre in Greater Cairo on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. Furthermore, UNHCR partner Terre des Hommes (TdH) provided basic counselling to 2,150 new arrivals and referred 11 cases for in-depth psycho-social assessment.

UNHCR commemorated International Women's Day at a community event in Cairo on 9 March. 56 women refugee leaders, including Sudanese, participated in activities at the Centre for Opportunities of UNHCR partner Terre des Homme, sharing insights into the prominent roles they hold in their communities.

Infoline

UNHCR Egypt's Infoline handled 11,300 calls and provided registration appointments to 12,200 people who have fled Sudan during the reporting week. This brought the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the system to 279,400. Nine out of ten people who approached

UNHCR through Infoline during the reporting week were in Greater Cairo, while 4 per cent were in Alexandria and 3 per cent in Aswan.

Prevention & Response against gender-based violence (GBV)

Over the past week, UNHCR counselled 58 survivors of gender-based violence at UNHCR's Reception Centre in Greater Cairo..

Education

UNHCR conducted training for teachers working in public schools in Damietta and Alexandria in the last week of February. The training targeted newly equipped schools in both North Coast cities and benefited 25 teachers from 23 schools hosting refugee children and benefiting from the Digital Education Program utilizing Egypt Knowledge Bank and other online learning programs relevant to the lower secondary school students, including teaching methodology.

In February, UNHCR, through its partner Catholic Relief Services provided monthly allowances, mentorship activities, and support to 425 DAFI scholars, enabling them to continue their university education and to deal with challenges that they may face in their studies.

Cash Assistance and Livelihood

During the reporting period, UNHCR partners conducted vulnerability assessments for 149 newly arrived Sudanese households in Cairo, bringing the total to 27,018 households since the start of the crisis in April 2023.

UNHCR partners conducted rapid needs assessments for 32 households (92 individuals) in Aswan, reaching a total of 4,121 households (11,818 individuals) since the start of the crisis. Of them, 2,770 households (8,540 individuals) have been found eligible for one-off emergency cash assistance.

In total, 20,525 registered and unregistered households (55,900 individuals) have been identified as eligible for the one-off emergency cash assistance, out of whom 16,445 households (47,359 individuals) have successfully been assisted.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, 50,337 individuals crossed the border from Sudan to Ethiopia in need of international protection. 21,231 individuals crossed through the Metema entry point in Gondar, 21,669 individuals through the Kurmuk entry point in Benishangul Gumuz, 700 individuals at different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey) and 6,737 Ethiopian returnees.

Population Movement and Registration

In Kurmuk Transit Center, L1 registration was conducted for 276 new arrivals (102 households) from Sudan. The cumulative of L1 registered refugees since the start of the conflict in April 2023 to-date is 20,649 individuals (5,692 households). L3 registration is expected to commence following the relocation of the refugees from Kurmuk Transit Center to the Ura Site, the new allocated land by the Government.

In Metema, L1 registration was conducted at the entry point for 164 individuals. Further L3 registration was conducted in Kumer transit site for 101 newborns and individuals who missed registration due to various reasons. The process of correcting and reprinting documentation was provided to 156 families.

In Addis Ababa, the no cost visa extension for 3 months has been introduced for Sudanese residing in the capital effective between 2 February until 2 May 2023. Many refugees took advantage and renewed their visas without paying penalties accrued before 2 February 2024. Using the renewed Visas, many have travelled to Sherkole and registered.

Relocation

With the opening of the new site in Awlala, Amhara region on 16 February, the new arrivals are received and relocated to the transit centre, where they are registered (L3), and then immediately transferred to

Awlala. So far, 1,770 individuals have been relocated to Awlala with 1 convoy per week. 249 individuals were relocated during the reporting period.

Protection

UNHCR conducted individual counseling to refugees and asylum seekers at the Metema entry point and Kumer Transit site. Numerous health-related cases were reported, with individuals expressing discontent about the lack of pass permits needed for urgent medical referrals as well as the local clinic's constant reliance on the same pain relief methods for various medical cases. Other concerns related to the lack of CRIs and food were raised.

The General Food Distribution cycle for February 2024 was completed in all refugee locations; Metema, Kumer, Awlala (Amhara region) and Kurmuk transit center (Benishagum Gumuz region).

Child Protection

Six separated children were identified and registered by social workers and community-based structures in Kurmuk. The cumulative number of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC) since the beginning of the influx stands at 1,210. Of these, 1,060 are Separated Children, while 37 are Unaccompanied Minors (UAM) and 113 are OVC.

A total of 1,178 UASC and OVC children have also been reached through home-to-home visits and follow ups made through social workers and community-based structures in Kurmuk.

Child friendly space (CFS) continued provided basic literacy and numeracy activities in Kumer and Awlala (328 children) and Kurmuk transit sites (187 children).

Awareness sessions were conducted for newly relocated refugees and asylum seekers in Awlala settlement. These sessions focused on child protection and gender-based violence (GBV). Participants were informed about their rights, safety measures, and available support services.

Prevention and response against gender-based violence (GBV)

International Women's Day, on 8 March was observed in Kumer, Awlala and Kurmuk, in the presence of refugees, partners and government authorities.

As part of the pre-commemoration activity, partners International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Medical Teams International (MTI) conducted panel discussions, community mobilization, awareness raising, refresher sessions on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and referral pathways, and sports competitions such as football and volleyball, in Kurmuk. In addition, several activities including speeches, songs, cultural dances, drama and handcraft exhibition were conducted bringing the achievements of refugee girls & women to the attention of the public and advocating for their rights.

International Women's Day was celebrated with the theme "Inspire Inclusion" in Kumer and Awlala. The event was organized by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC) in collaboration with various NGOs such as, World Vision Ethiopia (WVE), Plan International (PIE), Action Aid, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO), Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS), MTI, and UN agencies, government focal points, women's associations, and refugees at the Kumer and Awlala refugee settlements on 8 and 9 March respectively. The theme emphasized the importance of understanding the value of women's inclusion, leading to a more empowered and relevant world for all women.

Awareness-raising sessions were conducted in Kumer, Awlala and Kurmuk. The topics of the sessions include early marriage and its effects as well as PSEA. The exercise focused on available services for survivors of GBV and PSEA reporting system. Prevention of physical violence and early marriage, and the need to report GBV and PSEA within 72 hours was emphasized.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) were provided to GBV survivors in Kumer and Kurmuk.

Education

A discussion on the integration of refugee children education in the national government system was conducted in Kumer and Awlala host community schools with the participation of government officials from the Education Bureau, Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS), host community representatives,

Refugee Community Centres (RCC) members, PIE and UNHCR. The host community members indicated their support to the refugee children education once some of the pressing and urgent needs are addressed including the school renovation, provision and expansion of the water and health services, enhancement of the security situation in the area and the school compound.

In Kumer and Awlala the lack of teachers, the security situation in the area, in addition to lack of health and WASH services are impacting the enrolment of refugees to schools.

Health and Nutrition

MTI and WVE are providing support through Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) in Kumer and Awlala. They both provided outpatient department (OPD) consultations to 597 adults and 163 children under the age of 5 years. The prevalent diseases in children under-five include acute upper respiratory infections, diarrhea, eye disease, and intestinal worms. For adults, acute upper respiratory infections, fungal infection, gastritis, back pain, and intestinal parasite (IP) were the most prevalent.

MTI and RRS provided OPD consultations to a total of 502 adult patients and 163 children under the age of 5 years in Kurmuk health post. Upper respiratory tract infection, malaria, and lower respiratory tract infections, and diarrhea were the prevalent diseases recorded. In addition, a total of 23 pregnant women received antenatal care follow-up services at the transit center health post.

MHPSS education sessions, Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and family planning consultations were conducted in both Kurmuk and Kumer.

Key challenges reported in health include shortage of medicine, particularly antimalarial drugs and pregnancy RDT kits, ineffective coordination of referrals especially during the nighttime. In addition, absence of latrines, fences, permanent shelters, and water points around the mobile clinic. Identified MAM cases are also not being provided with the necessary linkage to access supplies. Security issues are causing delays in the transportation of logistics from Addis.

During the reporting period, GOAL conducted screening of under five children for acute malnutrition both at Kurmuk Transit Center and Akendayo kebele 25km from Kurmuk, reaching 100 children. Among them, a total of 10 cases of SAM and 61 with MAM were identified and admitted to outpatient therapeutic and targeted supplementary feeding programs respectively. In addition, one child identified with severe acute malnutrition and medical complications was referred to the Sherkole camp stabilization center for better management.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- Some 594,893 individuals have arrived in South Sudan since April 2023, including 470,142 refugee returnees. Population Movements and Registration

Population Movement and Registration

- In Renk, 10,009 individuals (2,424 households) were recorded as new arrivals during the reporting period. Sudanese and other nationalities account for 44%, while South Sudanese returnees account for 56%.
- In Maban, the camp population statistics stand at 199,053 individuals (41,248 households).
- In Bentiu, 658 individuals (172 households) arrived in the northern corridors of Rotriak, Nyeruop, and Mayom routes. 58 individuals (14 households) were recorded/tracked in the southern corridors, arriving via Adok, Tayar, and Mayiendit entry routes. The key issues raised at the information sessions included insecurity and armed robberies on the way from Khartoum.
- In Jamjang, 1,014 new arrivals were registered.

Relocation

UNHCR and IOM relocated by boat 569 individuals from Renk to Malakal and then airlifted to Ajuong Thok refugee camp in Jamjang. 511 Sudanese families were successfully transported to Ajuong Thok

refugee camp from Bulukat in Malakal through facilitation by UNHCR, Danish Refugee Council and Humanitarian & Development Consortium (HDC).

In Malakal, 3,904 individuals in eight boats arrived from Renk to the Transit Centre (TC), while 2,208 individuals departed by air, organized by IOM, to Wau, Juba, and Bentiu.

3,060 individuals have been relocated from Renk to Maban and 1,081 to Jamjang (via Malakal) since the beginning of the year.

In Renk, CCCM partner ACTED facilitated a dialogue on relocation between refugees and local authorities, including the Renk County Commissioner, Upper Nile acting governor, officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA), Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), National Security, Immigration, and police. The government emphasized the policy that refugees requiring assistance should relocate to Maban camp and informed them of the available services in the area. With the growing reluctance among refugees to relocate, officials stated that those who do not need assistance are welcome to settle in Renk. Refugees who choose to return to Sudan must return their ration cards.

Protection

In Renk, incidents of physical assault during the journey to South Sudan were reported by male new arrivals. 3,050 individuals (685 households) were identified this week with specific needs (PSNs). HDC facilitated their onward transport from the reception centre to the transit centres.

372 dignity kits were distributed to adolescent girls in Transit Centre 2.

Protection monitoring and referrals were carried out for 247 individuals. Among them, 34 individuals received legal assistance and 14 were given tailored psychosocial support. IRC conducted one court monitoring and two detention visits.

In Bentiu, protection issues throughout the entry routes monitored included theft of belongings, robberies, extortion of money, and harassment at checkpoints and throughout the routes. Other protection concerns raised were the shortage of food and livelihood opportunities, with calls for cash assistance, farming tools, and seeds for the upcoming rainy season.

Health and Nutrition

In Renk, 4,185 consultations were conducted in Transit Centre 1 and Joda reception centre, of which 50% were refugees. Respiratory tract infections (36%), malaria (11%), and acute watery diarrhoea (6%) remain the leading causes of morbidity.

4,684 children were vaccinated against polio and measles, covering 85% of the target population. 1,319 people were vaccinated against COVID-19.

There is a critical shortage of oral antibiotics and anti-malarial drugs. Other gaps include the absence of a latrine for mothers in labour at the reception centre, not enough ambulances for referrals, and inadequate water supply at the IMC health facility at the border.

Out of 189 children under 5 years of age who were screened for malnutrition at the Joda border, 29 were found to be moderately malnourished, 2 were severely malnourished, with one case reported with medical complications and admitted to the stabilization ward.

In Malakal, lack of access to food remained a big challenge as many returnees stay beyond the recommended seven days in the TC and run out of food before travelling to their final destination.

In Maban, the Government-led mass polio campaign was successfully concluded in the Maban host community and all four refugee camps. 34,304 (85.8%) children 0-59 months benefited from the vaccination. 132 children 6 months to 15 years were vaccinated against measles. Cumulatively in 2024, 1314 children benefited from the vaccination.

In Aweil, acute respiratory tract infections, malaria and acute watery diarrhoea, are reported as the main illnesses in the Wedweil refugee settlement.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Renk, the number of pit latrines and showers at the transit centres continue to be below the minimum standards with a ratio of one latrine for 58 people, one shower for 117 people in TC 1 and one latrine and one shower for 91 people in TC 2. There is also an absence of lighting inside the latrines and bathing facilities. Construction of an additional 20 latrines is ongoing to help close this gap.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

In Renk, Plan International and Africa Development Aid (ADA) distributed essential items to 209 households (121 female-headed and 88 male-headed), including 231 plastic sheets, 164 metallic cups, 40 blankets, and 209 buckets. An estimated gap of 287 communal shelters need to be filled to meet the standard of 3.5 square meters per person and address overcrowding in the transit centres.

UGANDA

Highlights

- Sudanese refugees constitute the largest percentage of the new arrivals in Uganda. The increasing number of Sudanese new arrivals has increased protection needs. Cumulatively 24,772 individuals have arrived in the country since 1 January 2024, including 11,501 from Sudan. The total number of Sudanese that have arrived since the start of the conflict in April 2023 is 21,639.
- In collaboration with UNHCR, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) is initiating Level 2 (L2) registration for Sudanese refugees at Nyumanzi Transit Center to facilitate their relocation directly to the Kiryandongo settlement. This will help to alleviate congestion at the reception centers and facilitate the timely allocation of plots. OPM has also agreed that refugees who are planning to live in Kampala may be registered separately to facilitate their formal residency and registration in Kampala for those who so choose.

Relocation

During the reporting week 202 individuals (68 households) were relocated to Kiryandongo settlement. A total of 1,203 individuals (398 households) have been relocated since January 2024.

1,364 refugees in the Kiryandongo reception centre have been relocated to their plots in the settlement, while 750 are pending plot allocation.

Protection

Access to territory

No reported denial of access to territory for Sudanese asylum seekers has been recorded during the reporting week. The Government of Uganda declared *prima facie* refugee recognition to asylum seekers from Sudan who arrived from 1 April 2023 onwards. This decision has increased access to the national asylum process. UNHCR and the Government have continued to conduct regular border monitoring to ensure access to the territory.

Prevention and response against gender-based violence (GBV)

In Nyumanzi reception centre, protection partners conducted awareness-raising sessions focused on the laws of Uganda, refugee rights and obligations, protection referral pathways, and MHPSS reaching a total of 342 individuals. Following the sessions, individuals with prevailing needs were referred to case management agencies for comprehensive assessment and ongoing follow-up and support.

In Kampala, the Sudanese Mobile Protection Desk (MPD) was held at the newly rented Sudanese Community Centre. The community requested UNHCR and partner support in the areas of computer skills training, rehabilitation services, women empowerment, enterprise development, music dance and drama and education.

Education

UNHCR and its partners commenced the registration and enrollment of learners among Sudanese new arrivals in the Kiryandongo settlement. Presently, 497 individuals are registered, with 400 actively

participating in classes. Most of the new arrivals are Arabic speakers and to overcome the language barrier, 14 teaching assistants have been recruited to facilitate translations from English to Arabic. However, challenges such as shortage of classrooms and linguistic/cultural differences between learners and teachers or peers have hindered access to education. Consequently, the introduction of temporary structures is being considered to minimize the strain on existing infrastructure while long-term solutions are being explored.

Health and Nutrition

The District Health Team (DHT) and Medical Teams International (MTI) conducted support supervision with a focus on disease surveillance at Nyumanzi reception centre. No new public health concerns were noted during the surveillance exercise.

A training session on cholera Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) was provided to the medical team at the Elegu collection point, facilitated through a partnership between MTI and the Infectious Disease Institute (IDI). Additionally, active case finding for measles was carried out at the Elegu reception centre, involving screening of new arrivals and subsequent rescreening at the Nyumanzi reception centre, 71 individuals underwent this screening.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

55 households received CRIs comprised of blankets, sleeping mats, jerrycans, basins, soap, and hygiene materials for women in the reproductive age group. A notable number of families are not collecting the available support and after registration in the settlement are returning to Kampala. This trend is being monitored so that adjustments in the operation can be made as this trend is foreseen to continue.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

A submersible pump with a solarization process, containing 15 panels, each with a capacity of 550 watts, was installed in Nyumanzi RC. The system has effectively boosted water production, enhancing access to water for the new arrivals at the reception centre. In addition, test pumping for the recently drilled borehole was done with good yields. This has responded to the long-standing issue of inadequate water at the reception centre.

Village Health Teams (VHTs) and hygiene promoters at Elegu and Nyumanzi reception centers conducted an awareness campaign on maintaining good practices in drinking water (the water chain). A total of 134 individuals were reached.

Livelihoods and self-reliance

UNHCR and partners have engaged with Sudanese new arrivals in Kampala and Kiryadongo to establish what livelihood and self-reliance programmes can be explored. UNHCR and partners are actively promoting the inclusion of Sudanese individuals in the 2024 programmes of livelihood partners in Kampala. This emphasis was reaffirmed during the urban working group meeting convened in Kampala last month. In Kiryadongo, agronomists and agriculturalists were prompted to explore livelihood options for those who chose to stay to support their self-sustenance. UNHCR's livelihoods colleagues will also offer advisory sessions to support those opting to remain in Kampala.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) – January – December 2024

- On 7 February, UNHCR and 81 organization launched the [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#), with an appeal for **USD 1.4 billion** to provide essential aid and protection to **2.7 million people** expected to arrive in five neighbouring countries by the end of 2024, fleeing the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) – January – December 2024

- The [Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan](#) was launched on 7 February and requires **USD 2.7 billion** to help 14.7 million people. As of 13 March, the total funding for the HRP reached some USD 131 million or **4.9%** of the requirements [OCHA FTS](#).

UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – January - December 2024

- UNHCR's total financial requirement for 2024 [Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal](#) – in Sudan and neighbouring countries – amount to **USD 988.1 million**. As of 13 March, the total available funding for the appeal is **10%** of the funding requirements.

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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