

## Central African Republic (CAR) – SUDAN SITUATION

7–13 March 2024



*Sudanese refugee women and children during a community session in Korsi, Birao. @UNHCR*

### 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 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.

## Situation and Operational Response

### 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 10 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

INTEROS 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 INTEROS 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)

INTEROS 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, INTEROS 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.

### Coordination

UNHCR supports the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) to lead and coordinate the Sudan refugee response. In Birao, whereby regular meetings with all relevant actors intervening in the area can exchange on the opportunities, challenges, and solutions vis a vis refugees living in Korsi and the areas nearby.

## Response Plans and Funding Situation

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

- On 7 February, UNHCR and 81 organizations launched the [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#), with an appeal for **USD 46.2 million for the Central African Republic** to provide essential aid and protection to 71,176 people in need, **including 39,876 refugees** fleeing the ongoing conflict in Sudan by the end of 2024.

### UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – January - December 2024

- UNHCR's total financial requirement for the 2024 [Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal](#) – in Sudan and neighbouring countries – amounts 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 Global Focus Sudan Operation page](#)

**Contacts:** **Stella Fatime** – Public Information Associate ([fatime@unhcr.org](mailto:fatime@unhcr.org)); **Gloria Ramazani** – External Relations Officer ([ramazang@unhcr.org](mailto:ramazang@unhcr.org)).

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