

SUDAN SITUATION

14-20 March 2024



New arrivals from Sudan in Renk, South Sudan, waiting to be registered. © UNHCR/South Sudan

Highlights

- Ongoing clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have continued since the outbreak of conflict in April 2023.
- [Famine looms in Sudan as civil war survivors tell of killings and rapes \(bbc.com\)](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62484444). Civilians caught up in Sudan's civil war have given graphic accounts of rape, ethnic violence and street executions. Top UN officials have said the conflict has plunged the country into "one of the worst humanitarian nightmares in recent history" and could trigger the world's largest hunger crisis. There are also fears that in Darfur, in the west of the country, a repeat of what many called genocide 20 years ago may be beginning to unfold.
- [Conflict driving hunger crisis in Sudan, UN officials tell Security Council | UN News](https://www.un.org/press/en/2024/240320sc10917.docstoc.htm) Eleven months of brutal fighting is driving a hunger crisis in Sudan, with some areas likely to experience catastrophic levels of food insecurity by the lean season in May, the UN Security Council heard at a meeting on 20 March, that was convened following OCHA's submission of a white paper on food insecurity in Sudan last week. The conflict has had a devastating impact on agricultural production leading to acute food insecurity, malnutrition rates are soaring, and the obstacles to aid delivery are many.

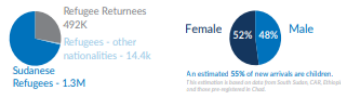
- [24 million Sudanese children facing 'generational catastrophe' | UN News](#) As the war in Sudan enters its second year next month, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) warned of a staggering toll of the crisis on children, with an estimated 24 million teetering on the brink of a “generational catastrophe”. The situation has thrust millions of Sudanese children into jeopardy, with a staggering 14 million requiring urgent humanitarian assistance, 19 million deprived of education and four million displaced from their homes. The Committee also noted acute shortages of food and clean drinking water and severely limited access to healthcare and medicines and warned of a sharp increase in the number of children killed or falling victim to sexual violence as a weapon of war compared to a year ago.

OVERVIEW: There are now 8.4 million forcibly displaced due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan since April 2023, including 6.5 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.

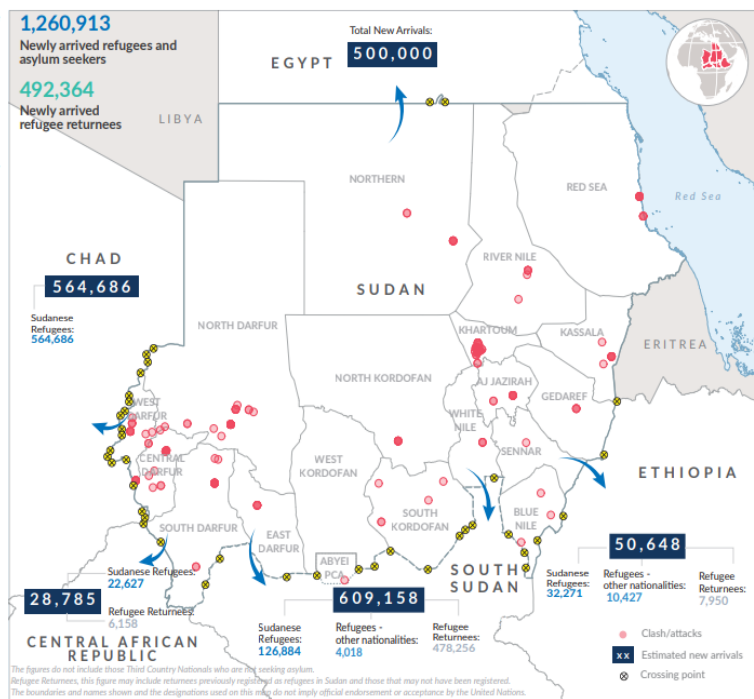
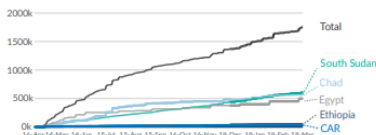
8,416,488 Forcibly Displaced
6,467,700 New IDPs in Sudan

1,753,277 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

- Conflict has resumed last week in Gedaref State resulting in the postponement of field missions to Tunaydbah refugee camp, hosting Ethiopian refugees, that had only just resumed. UNHCR is assessing the situation and is making necessary arrangements for continuity of services should the situation escalate, which may trigger a further reduction in field presence due to insecurity.

Population movements and Registration

During the reporting period, 101 refugees and asylum-seekers from Eritrea (98 individuals) and Ethiopia arrived in eastern Sudan through the Gulsa point, Kassala and the Gallabat border, Gedaref respectively. Also, 185 Ethiopian refugees and asylum-seekers, who had previously arrived or self-relocated were registered in Kassala (126 refugees) and Gedaref (59 refugees) camps.

The Commission of Refugees (COR) and UNHCR relocated 140 secondarily displaced refugees and asylum-seekers from Um Gulja settlement to Um Gargour camp (121 individuals) and from Tunaydbah camp to Shagarab camp in Kassala (19 individuals). In Um Gargour, the secondarily displaced refugees and asylum-seekers received NFI kits from the Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery (SORR) while Talawiet Organization for Development provided a three-day food ration. In Shagarab, asylum-seekers received hot meals and shelters in the reception centre upon arrival.

In White Nile State, 44 South Sudanese families comprising 273 individuals arrived from Wad Madani, Jazirah State in Dabat Bosin (103 individuals) and Al Alagaya refugee camps (170 individuals). This brings the total new arrivals to the refugee camps to 26,904 individuals (3,815 families) since December 2023 with 441,983 refugees now residing in the camps in White Nile State.

The State Ministry of Health and Social Development (MoHSD) in White Nile enrolled 146 IDPs living in Kosti. UNHCR is supporting the State MoHSD to maintain a database of IDPs at household level to facilitate assistance and protection services, including advocacy and support on documentation for persons with specific needs (PSNs). This entails verification of existing data, collection of household-level data, and demographic profiling by vulnerability, age, sex, and other relevant criteria. A total of 93,146 IDPs living with the host community have been enrolled so far.

Over the past two weeks, 500 households have reportedly crossed the border from El Geneina to Chad, with many originating from Nyala, South Darfur State. Simultaneously, around 70 households have returned to El Geneina from Chad this week, settling in neighborhoods in Al Kefah, Al Thowra, Al Majlis, Al Salam, and Al Imtidad. Some returnee families have found their houses occupied by others. Lack of basic services in Chad, particularly food and cash, is cited as the primary reason for their return. Returnees in El Geneina are relying on informal support networks, including food provided by relatives.

Community networks in West Darfur have reported that returnees crossed back to Chad citing lack of essential services in Sirba locality. UNHCR and partners are verifying this information to ascertain how to better support spontaneous returns, despite the difficult situation in the country.

Protection

In White Nile State, Mutawinat, a Sudanese NGO and UNHCR's legal partner, monitored the situation of 15 South Sudanese refugees arrested for alleged involvement in the conflict. A total of 22 refugees have been detained since December out of which seven have been released so far.

Also in West Darfur, community networks noted that returnees from Chad or other localities should register with the authorities and undergo screening. UNHCR, its partners and community networks are monitoring the situation if protection-related incidents require advocacy with the local authorities.

UNHCR partners identified some 650 vulnerable IDPs, refugees, and host community members in North, East, and South Darfur who will be eligible to receive one-off multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) and individual protection assistance (IPA) through flexible cash transfers of approximately USD 135 per person. MPCA will give refugees the choice to address their immediate needs, while IPA will enable the identified IDPs and host community members with protection concerns address their unique vulnerabilities and promote their safety and well-being. Additionally, 67 individuals were identified for material support such as blankets, plastic sheets, mosquito nets, and personal hygiene kits in Sheria locality, East Darfur.

In South Darfur, World Vision provided psychosocial support to 25 GBV survivors in Mershing community, Otash, and Kalma IDP camps referred them to other partners for medical support.

The Abu Shouk IDP camp in North Darfur State was reportedly shelled last week resulting in two burned houses and three injured children. Furthermore, a market within the IDP camp was struck, that led to five civilian deaths, including three children, and injuring fifteen others. As conflict continues the IDP

gathering sites face dire humanitarian conditions, with strained facilities due to overcrowding and limited interventions.

In preparation for the roll-out of Multi-Purpose Community Centres (MPCCs), UNHCR's protection partner HOPE convened a meeting with community representatives at Umdowein MPCC in El Geneina, West Darfur State to discuss protection issues, clarifying the demographics of communities residing in the area and their intercommunal relationships, mapping of the MPCC catchment area, and assessing gaps in needed rehabilitation efforts. The attendees shared that diverse community groups live in harmony in the area, including both host communities and IDPs. Female participants expressed their crucial need for cash, food and support to PSNs.

In the Eastern states, UNHCR provided protection counselling to 141 refugees and asylum-seekers in Kassala (60 individuals) and Gedaref (81 individuals). Concerns raised included economic hardship, need for medical assistance, legal aid, resettlement, livelihood opportunities, shelter/NFI support, renewal and updating of photo slips and family statistics and legal inquiries.

In Gedaref, UNHCR and COR conducted key informant interviews and focus group discussions with 17 community leaders and members in Babikri refugee camp to discuss their intentions regarding return and the reasons for such return. The findings of survey confirmed several key drivers influencing refugee return, such as the deteriorating security situation in Sudan, improved security in Ethiopia, ongoing political process in Ethiopia and socio-economic conditions in both countries. 94 per cent of the respondents expressed a strong inclination to return to Ethiopia in the foreseeable future.

In Kassala, one refugee departed on resettlement to USA; two cases comprising of 10 individuals were also approved for resettlement to the USA.

Education

To free up schools in Koho Alwaral camp, White Nile State, COR and Sudan Red Crescent Society have identified a land adjacent to the camp inside Al Salam to relocate 400 secondarily displaced refugee families who are accommodated in schools. UNHCR and its partners will work closely to ensure the relocation is managed in a participatory and inclusive manner.

Meanwhile in Alagaya camp, COR and refugee representatives are coordinating with the host community to explore alternative land to relocate an estimated 21,000 new arrivals accommodated inside the camp school.

Health and Nutrition

In White Nile state, an oral cholera vaccination campaign in February conducted by the Ministry of Health (MoH) among refugee communities has reduced the rate of cholera outbreaks in the camps. No new cases have been reported in refugee locations so far.

In South Darfur, World Vision, in close coordination with the Ministry of Health, and Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), delivered medical supplies to health facilities in Beleil, Al Salam locality, and Al Radoom localities which are operated by the State Ministry of Health, serving refugees, IDPs, and host communities.

Also in South Darfur, the Ministry of Health and WHO are looking into reports of a measles outbreak among refugee children in Mershing locality and in gathering sites in El Fasher to put in place mitigation measures to prevent potential outbreaks. Since the conflict began, the lack of vaccines and vaccination services at medical facilities have exposed children to otherwise preventable communicable diseases.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

UNHCR distributed clothing items to 393 IDP households comprising of 2,091 individuals in Souk Al Shabi mosque (716 individuals) and in various sites in Al Mafaza locality (1,375 individuals) in Gedaref State.

In South Darfur, SORR distributed core relief items including plastic sheets and mosquito nets to over 2,600 refugee families and 380 households of the host community in Beileil.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Gedaref State, 578 households comprising 835 women and girls of reproductive age who were secondarily displaced from Al Jazirah State received hygiene kits from UNHCR's partner SORR.

In Kassala State, 804 bars of soap were distributed to 50 refugees in male and female safehouses.

Cash Assistance

In Gedaref State, 162 Ethiopian former peacekeeper refugees in Um Gargour refugee camp received 134,500 Sudanese pounds (approximately USD140) multi-purpose cash assistance covering two months (March-April).

IT and Telecoms

The telecommunication company Sudani and Zain have resumed services in Sudan after a nationwide disruption since early February; however, Zain service is operating on prepaid mode. MTN is still down. The lack of stable communication services for the last six weeks has significantly disrupted communication with partners, community-based networks and registration activities in Sudan.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Highlights

- The security situation in the Vakaga prefecture, which hosts the most number of Sudanese refugees in CAR, continues to face considerable security problems with various non-state armed groups active in the area. This has disrupted the lives of civilians and affected humanitarian efforts in the region.
- As of 19 March, the population in Korsi has reached 10,198 refugees/ 4,492 HH. Since January, 6,927 Sudanese (3,080 families) have arrived in Korsi. The trend in March has increased to 83 during the reporting week, compared to 70 the previous week. The population living in Korsi has increased by 256% compared to 31 December 2023, when 2,866 people/ 1,484 HH lived there.

Population Movements and Registration

100% of Korsi's population has been biometrically registered. During the reporting week, 659 individuals (254 HH) were registered. As of 17 March, 29,444 forced displaced people had arrived in CAR since April 2023, including 23,286 Sudanese refugees and 6,158 Central African returnees. 14,858 (5,181 HH) are biometrically registered and live in 13 localities, including Korsi.

Protection

This week, 418 refugee cards were distributed to registered refugees. Identification and registration of refugee children from Korsi who were born during flight and in Korsi is ongoing to establish their birth certificate.

The UNHCR team received 74 people with specific needs during the week, including women at risk, single parents, older people at risk, people living with disabilities, people with chronic illnesses and unaccompanied and separated children. Of these, 20 were referred to available care services, two chronically ill people were referred to the Korsi health centre run by NOURRIR, a local NGO that is also a UNHCR partner. Twelve single women, two people living with disabilities, one child at risk and three older people were referred to INTERSOS, a partner of UNHCR. Finally, INTERSOS gave cash assistance to 13 people with special needs who had newly arrived in Korsi.

Protection monitoring

INTERMEDIARIES carried out 50 monitoring visits, including 25 in the host community in Birao and 25 in Korsi. As a result of the monitoring visits, 143 protection incidents were identified and documented, with an increase of 112 incidents compared to the previous week (31). 95 per cent of the incidents affected host community members, 3 per cent transhumants, 1 per cent IDPs and 1 per cent refugees. All survivors received psychosocial support, and some of them were referred to the International Medical Corps (IMC) health centre for medical treatment. Five former cases were followed up at the listening centre.

Prevention and Response against gender-based violence (GBV)

The distribution of dignity kits to vulnerable women and girls continued in Korsi, with 975 kits distributed during the week, bringing the total to 1,288 kits distributed since 8 March. INTERMEDIARIES also conducted six awareness-raising sessions on using dignity kits and sanitary pads, reaching 1,100 women and girls.

Accountability

UNHCR partner INTERMEDIARIES conducted 564 perception surveys (26 more than the previous week) with the refugee community. Needs highlighted included shelters, NFI kits, and food. In addition, 20 complaints and requests for information were collected at the Information and Feedback Centre. All the complaints and requests for information received feedback during the week. In addition, 26 pieces of feedback was received from actors intervening in Korsi in response to complaints by refugees last week, mainly regarding protection, management of Korsi, food security, and health issues. INTERMEDIARIES also sensitized 682 people to the importance and functioning of the reference mechanism.

Education

During the week, a consultation meeting was held with the education authorities on the study to be carried out on the profiles of parent-teachers and teachers in Birao schools to select the teachers to be recruited under the Education Cannot Wait project.

Health and Nutrition

NOURRIR distributed 8,581 hot meals with food donated by the World Food Programme (WFP) and prepared and served 4,972 breakfasts.

NOURRIR and International Medical Corps (IMC) completed 656 medical consultations, benefiting 23 host community members and 633 refugees, including 200 new arrivals to Korsi. Since the beginning of the year, 8,158 curative consultations have been carried out in Korsi, including 947 former patients.

During the week, 13 patients were referred from the Korsi neighbourhood hosting area to Birao District Hospital. Since the beginning of the year, 128 patients have been referred to the Birao District Hospital, five are still hospitalised.

The obstetrics and gynecology team received 23 prenatal and 16 gynecological consultations and performed three deliveries. Lastly, 14 children received multi-antigen vaccines this week, and four pregnant women received tetanus vaccines.

Six moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) cases were documented and enrolled at the nutritional management centre. Since the beginning of the year, the nutritional management program has treated 366 children for MAM and 29 for severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

CHAD

Highlights

- Given the continued deterioration of the security situation in Sudan, with the resumption of fighting between different factions, the suspension of cross-border operations through the Adré border crossing point, and the increase in the number of new arrivals, UNHCR and partners have proceeded to update the contingency plan for the Sudan situation for a major new influx.

Population movements and Registration

During the week under review, 2,335 individuals (673 HHs) compared to 1,898 individuals (460 HHs) crossed into Chad mainly through the Adré border crossing point, citing generalized insecurity, abuses committed against young girls and young women at night, violence between Masalits and Arabs and lack of food due to insecurity as the reasons for flight. The Government of Chad has counted a total of 564,686 individuals (160 791 HHs) to have crossed into Chad since the start of the emergency of which 75,000 have crossed into Chad since the beginning of the year.

Biometric registration of Sudanese refugees continues at the Metché refugee site. To date, 34,197 individuals (8,899 HHs) have been registered. In Arkoum, the biometric registration exercise for individuals who missed out on the first batch of registration ended on 16 March 2024, with 2,141 additional individuals (631 HHs) registered after protection screening.

Biometric registration in Zabout, which was halted due to violent disturbances, will resume soon after meetings with the local authorities to resolve the situation. As of 16 March, 454,163 individuals (123,058 HHs) have been biometrically pre-registered/registered since the start of the emergency.

Relocation

3,058 new arrivals (755 HHs) were relocated from the Tine, Hideba and Sinette border entry points to the Touloum and Mile refugee sites. With the increased fuel costs and the limited fleet at UNHCR Chad's disposal, hiring commercial trucks and light vehicles is very expensive.

Preparations are underway for relocating new arrivals from Adré and Tissi refugee spontaneous sites to Farchana and Kerfi refugee sites, respectively, in the coming days.

254,030 individuals (69,317 HHs) have been relocated since the start of the crisis in Sudan.

Protection

48 new gender-based (GBV) incidents were reported in the 4 provinces of Ouadaï, Wadi-Fira, Sila and Enndi Est. The survivors received psychosocial support, with some referred to other service providers (health, police, child protection) for further assistance. This brings the total to 847 GBV reported incidents among the new refugees since the start of the emergency.

The trend emerging from the analysis shows a slight increase in reporting GBV incidents compared to last week, when 45 cases were reported. Community awareness raising was carried out in the refugee sites during International Women's Day week.

Health and Nutrition

411,097 medical consultations have been carried out since the start of the emergency, including 17,679 over the past week. Malaria, acute respiratory infections (ARI), watery diarrhea and malnutrition remain the main pathologies.

Since the start of the crisis, 358,058 children have been screened for malnutrition; 33,876 cases of MAM and 16,310 cases of SAM were treated for children aged 6 to 59 months. Over the past week, 12,811 children were screened, including 692 MAM and 229 SAM.

29,505 pregnant and breastfeeding women were screened, and 3,749 cases of MAM were treated. In the past week, 1,425 pregnant women were screened, including 159 cases of MAM.

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

5,535 deliveries attended by qualified health personnel have been recorded since the start of the emergency, including 174 deliveries last week.

The samples of hepatitis E sent to Dakar have confirmed eight positive cases. During the period under review, 1,098 cases were recorded in four refugee sites: the Adré refugee spontaneous site: 526 cases; Aboutengue (formerly known as Ourang): 292 cases; Metché: 160 cases; and Alacha: 80 cases. As a result, the Ministry of Health, with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), has appointed an incident manager for the hepatitis E outbreak on 7 March, for an initial period of three months to collaborate with local and health authorities and address the outbreak.

UNHCR and partners have implemented various preventive activities, such as reinforced sensitization, hand washing, medical screenings during relocations, and improved hygiene measures in the various sites. The general food distribution for the month of March started on 7 March and ended on 12 March, at the Alacha site. WFP served 46,844 individuals (12,638 HHs). To date, WFP has served food to a total of 657, 513 individuals (refugees: 511, 092; returnees: 94,484; host population 51, 937)

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

UNHCR's partner, Association pour la Promotion des Libertés Fondamentales au Tchad (APLFT), distributed 600 dignity kits at the Alacha site benefiting girls and women of child-bearing age.

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

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The mini water supply network is completed at Arkoum, eliminating the need for water trucking for now. In Farchana, the water distribution system in Extensions I and II is also now operational. The water points are now supplied by gravity from metal tanks, installed by OXFAM.

517 shelters were allocated to new arrivals at the Kerfi site, and the construction of an additional 400 shelters is in progress.

11,688 latrines have been built since 15 April.

EGYPT

Highlights

- 508,827 people, including 500,000 Sudanese and 8,827 individuals of other nationalities, crossed into Egypt between April 2023 and March 2024, according to latest figures received by UNHCR from the Government of Egypt.
- 48,000 litres of drinking water were delivered by UNHCR to the crossings between Egypt and Sudan for forcibly displaced populations transiting the borders on 13 March.
- 2,200 refugees and asylum-seekers have benefited from UNHCR shelter support, including through refugee-led organizations, since the onset of the crisis. As access to affordable and dignified housing continues to be one of the main concerns of Sudanese refugees arriving in Egypt, UNHCR has significantly increased its support in this area since April 2023.
- UNHCR newly registered 4,350 asylum-seekers fleeing conflict in Sudan last week. The decrease compared to previous weeks is due to reduced Ramadan working hours. However, the number of registration appointments given to Sudanese new arrivals remained stable at 15,125.

Population Movements and Registration

As of 14 March, 207,889 individuals fleeing Sudan have now been registered by UNHCR Egypt out of the 433,140 people who have been provided with pre-registration appointments since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. UNHCR is working to increase its capacity to meet the increasing demand for registration. Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (93 per cent), followed by South Sudanese (3 per cent), and Eritrean (3 per cent). In terms of new arrival registration trends, females remain at 53 per cent. The great majority of new arrivals registered originate from Khartoum (89 per cent), and 21 per cent of those registered have one or more specific needs, including a lack of legal documentation. Concerns remain due to the continued rise of reported irregular crossings into Egypt.

To ensure registered refugees and asylum-seekers can access UNHCR and maintain valid UNHCR documentation to mitigate protection risks, UNHCR is piloting proactive registration appointments for document renewals and has scheduled 9,000 appointments for approximately 30,000 individuals across the next few months. UNHCR Egypt continues to ensure that registration appointment slots are also set aside for emergency and urgent refugees who approach so they can receive prioritized registration services based on vulnerabilities.

Protection

Community-based protection:

Over the last week, refugee outreach workers provided information to some 2,860 refugees and asylum-seekers at UNHCR's Reception Centre in Greater Cairo on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. Since the start of the emergency, more than 90,000 newly arrived people from Sudan have now received this kind of information. Terre des Homme (TdH) provided basic counselling to 1,130 new arrivals.

Between 14 and 19 March, UNHCR and TdH launched four multi-purpose community centres in Greater Cairo. These centres will provide safe spaces for refugees and host communities to gather, participate in community activities, and access digital opportunities, among other services.

Infoline:

Last week, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline handled 10,300 calls and provided registration appointments to 11,350 people who have fled Sudan. This brought the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the Infoline system to 290,000. Nine out of ten people who approached UNHCR through the Infoline in the past week, were in Greater Cairo, while 5 per cent were in Alexandria.

Prevention of and Response to gender-based violence (GBV)

Over the past week, UNHCR counselled 24 survivors of GBV at its reception centre in Greater Cairo. Since the start of the crisis, UNHCR Egypt has counselled more than 300 GBV survivors from Sudan.

On 13 March, the Caritas clinic in Aswan received HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits supplied by UNHCR and UNFPA. This critical delivery was the result of a collaborative effort involving also WHO and was aimed at enhancing the clinical management of rape. The initiative will ensure that more than 30 refugee survivors of gender-based violence in Aswan have access to necessary services and support.

Legal and physical protection

Through lawyers of NGO partners, UNHCR Egypt has supported 650 individuals forced to flee Sudan with access to legal remedies and representation since the onset of the conflict.

Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

UNHCR Egypt has provided third country solutions to 312 individuals, identified as having crossed over from Sudan to Egypt with resettlement opportunities or under complementary pathways programmes since the start of the emergency.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

On 13 March, UNHCR delivered 80,000 water bottles (48,000 litres) to the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), at the border crossings between Egypt and Sudan. ERC distributes water bottles along with hygiene kits and sanitary pads provided by UNHCR to the forcibly displaced Sudanese who seek safety in Egypt. UNHCR has now delivered a total of 1,030,500 bottles of water (618,000 litres), 150,000 hygiene kits and 80,000 sanitary items to the border since the start of the Sudan crisis.

Cash Assistance and Livelihoods

During the reporting period, UNHCR's partners conducted vulnerability assessments for 60 newly arrived Sudanese households in Cairo, bringing the total to 27,078 households assessed since the start of the crisis.

In addition, UNHCR partners conducted rapid needs assessments for 15 households (48 individuals) in Aswan, reaching a total of 4,138 households (11,870 individuals) assessed since April 2023. Of them, 2,785 households (8,586 individuals) have been found eligible for one-off emergency cash assistance.

To date, some 20,649 registered and unregistered new arrival households (56,202 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 in April 2023, 50,648 individuals (22,549 HHs) in need of international protection crossed the border from Sudan to Ethiopia. 21,286 individuals crossed through the Metema entry point in Amhara, 21,818 individuals through the Kurmuk entry point in Benishangul Gumuz, and 700 individuals at different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey). Some 6,844 Ethiopian refugee returnees also arrived.

Population Movement and Registration

In Benishangul Gumuz region, L1 registration was conducted for 149 individuals (72 female and 77 male) of 63 households at Kurmuk Transit Centre. The cumulative total of L1 registered refugees since the start of the conflict in April 2023 is 21,818 individuals. L3 registration is expected to commence following the relocation of the refugees from Kurmuk Transit Centre to the Ura Site, the new allocated land by the Government.

In Amhara region, L1 registration was conducted at Metema entry point for a total of 68 individuals of 35 households. To date, a total of 21,286 individuals have undergone L1 registration since the start of the conflict.

Relocation

Relocation of refugees from Kumer transit site to Awlala refugee site is ongoing since 16 February 2024. As of 15 March, a total of 1,770 refugees have been relocated. During the reporting period, 142 individuals from 63 households were relocated at a rate of one convoy per week. Shortage of fuel, and rising land disputes with claims of ownership by individuals in the host community, are affecting progress of implementation of shelter and other activities at Awlala site. Relocation of refugees from the Kumer transit centre may be halted until a solution is identified by the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and local authorities.

Protection

A joint field visit was facilitated by Medical Teams International (MTI) in Kumer site, with the participation of various government sector leads, including RRS, the Zonal Health Bureau, Women and Children Justice Affairs and the federal police. The visit presented an opportunity to highlight key challenges faced by refugees and partners in providing protection and assistance services. The area of focus was mostly on the MTI Women and Girls Wellness Centre and the emergency health post.

UNHCR answered daily queries/phone calls from refugees on various concerns, such as health services and the need for support in both Awlala and Kumer sites. Rising temperatures, lack of fuel and the lack of electricity in the sites have affected the population and UNHCR movement including delivery of services in all sites. A fuel truck has been dispatched to Metema and is expected to arrive soon to address some of the challenges.

UNHCR and RRS conducted rapid assessment and identification of PSNs at Kurmuk Transit Centre. Protection consultations also continued at the transit centre focused on protection guidance and registration-related supports.

Child Protection

Eight separated children (3 girls and 5 boys) were identified and registered at Kurmuk. The cumulative figure of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other vulnerable children since the beginning of the influx totals 1,218 (547 girls and 671 boys). Of these, 1,068 (484 girls, 584 boys) are separated children, while 37 (9 girls, 28 boys) are unaccompanied children and 113 (54 girls, 59 boys) are other vulnerable children.

Child friendly spaces continued to provide basic literacy and numeracy activities in Kumer and Awlala (an average of 262 children) and Kurmuk transit sites (an average of 215 children).

The Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (HIS) protection help desk received a total of 25 cases. The main issues raised by children and their care givers relate to shelter, physical abuse, health, non-food items and registration. All the cases were referred to partners for further assistance.

Gender-based Violence (GBV)

At Kurmuk transit centre, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and MTI continued to provide awareness sessions focusing on sexual and domestic violence, early marriage, and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) at the women and girls' safe spaces. A total of 278 individuals were reached. In Kumer and Awlala, DICAC, a local faith-based organization, conducted similar awareness sessions reaching over 350 individuals.

In addition, home visits were also carried out by the two partners (IRC and MTI) reaching a total of 239 individuals (124 female and 115 male) from 45 households through the dissemination of information on available services for GBV survivors and the effects of sexual, emotional, and physical violence.

Awareness-raising sessions were conducted in Kumer, Awlala and Kurmuk on early marriage and its effects as well as on PSEA. Discussions focused on available services for survivors of GBV and the PSEA reporting system. Emphasis was placed on the prevention of physical violence and early marriage, underscoring the importance of reporting GBV and PSEA within 72 hours.

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

Education

UNHCR held a meeting with refugee camp committee members to persuade refugees in both Kumer and Awlala to enroll their children at the school in Kumer refugee site. Refugee education/teaching and learning processes have started at the Kumer host community school through assigning refugee teachers who will receive incentive payments. Amharic, English, mathematics, Environmental Science, Civics, Art, and Health and Physical Education are taught from grade 1 to 6. More than 100 refugee students have started classes in this school.

The Kumer host community school was provided with two extra classrooms to support the inclusion of refugee children. 410 refugee students at Kumer host community school were supported with school materials such as bags, pens, pencils, exercise books, sharpeners, and erasers provided by UNHCR, UNICEF and Plan International Ethiopia.

In Kumer, it is reported that most Sudanese refugee children who took school materials did not return to school due to lack of interest in the medium of instruction. Most of the refugee children that are attending school are Eritreans and South Sudanese. A meeting was held with incentive teachers to establish the Parent, Teachers, and Students Association, school clubs, committees, and other school structures. This is expected to address the lack of attendance by refugee students.

Refugee children have not started their schooling at the Awlala host community's school as funding is lacking for the renovation of the school infrastructure.

Health and Nutrition

MTI and World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) are supporting the provision of health services through mobile health and nutrition teams in Kumer and Awlala.

MTI and WVE provided outpatient department (OPD) consultations to 443 individuals/adults (207 refugees and 236 host community) and 172 children under the age of 5 years (98 refugees and 74 host community). The prevalent diseases in children under-five include acute upper respiratory infections (AURI), diarrhea, eye disease, and intestinal worms. Among adults, OPD cases commonly involve AURI, fungal infection, gastritis, back pain, and intestinal parasite. In addition, 30 pregnant women received antenatal care follow-up service.

MTI and RRS provided OPD consultations to a total of 333 adult patients and 98 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 12 pregnant women received antenatal care follow-up services at the transit centre health post.

MHPSS education sessions and Sexual Reproductive Health sessions were conducted in both Kumer and Kurmuk. Family planning consultations and contraceptives and male condoms were distributed.

The lack of fuel has disrupted the overall services. Laboratories were unable to function due to power outage. Shortage of programmatic medicine, issues with referrals, such as long backlog, ambulance unavailability, interruptions of light continue to be major challenges in Kumer and Awlala.

In Kurmuk, GOAL continued screening of under-five children, and pregnant and lactating women for acute malnutrition reaching 90 children. Among them, a total of eight cases of SAM and 19 cases of MAM were identified and admitted to outpatient therapeutic and targeted supplementary feeding program respectively. In addition, two children identified with SAM and medical complications have been referred to Sherkole camp stabilization centre for better management.

In Kumer and Awlala, MTI and WVE conducted nutritional screening for 74 children under 5, and 90 different groups, resulting in the identification of two cases of MAM and one case of SAM.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- The Renk transit centre remains over-crowded. The most recent headcount in Renk indicates 15,230 individuals in and around Transit Sites 1 and 2, of whom 41 per cent are refugees and 59 per cent are returnees, with additional numbers living among the host communities in the wider environs.

Population Movement and Registration

In Renk, 7,794 individuals/2,050 HH new arrivals were recorded, a 22 per cent decrease compared to the previous week (10,009 individuals/2,424 HH). Sudanese and other nationalities account for 25 per cent of them, while South Sudanese account for the remaining 75 per cent. As of 17 March, a cumulative total of 79,858 refugees/16 929 HH had been registered at Renk. Many have moved on, but for those who have stayed in Renk, the reasons include family visits, medical treatment, family reunification, and distance from Renk to Maban. Refugees also reportedly went back to Sudan.

In Aweil, as of 14 March 2024, the cumulative population of the registered new arrivals is 9,085 individuals (3,789 female and 5,296 male). During the reporting period, 178 HH/ 396 individuals arrived at the Wedwil settlement (206 male and 190 female), from Kiir Adem and other unrecognized routes. 61 individuals (female 32 and male 29) were relocated to the settlement this week.

In Jamjang, 465 HH/ 1259 individual new arrivals were received. Among them, 47 HH/147 returnees and 12 HH/ 23 asylum-seekers/refugees arrived at the Panakuach; 196 HHs/645 individuals were airlifted from Malakal; 79 HHs/165 individuals arrived at the Manga Port; 119 HH/ 258 asylum-seekers/refugees arrived at Yida; and 12 HH/21 asylum-seekers/refugees arrived at the Alel-Liri crossing point.

In Bentiu, 216 returnees' families comprising of 880 individuals (326 male and 554 female) arrived in the northern corridors of Rotriak, Nyeruop and Mayom routes. There has been an increase in arrivals across these routes compared to the previous week. Meanwhile, 23 households comprised of 150 individuals (72 male and 78 female) were recorded in the southern corridors.

Relocation

A convoy with 103 individuals/63 HH was relocated from Renk to Maban. A total of 3,161 individuals/1,291 HH have been relocated to Maban since the beginning of the relocation on 2 January 2024.

In Jamjang, Action Africa Help International assisted 412 HH/1102 individuals with onward transportation from Panakuach, Yida, Ajuongthok airstrip and Manga Port to the reception centres and the camps to receive additional support, while the returnees were transported to Lalop by IOM. Those who came through Alel-Liri found their own way to the camp. Meanwhile, 496 new arrivals who were

residing at the Pamir reception and Ajuong Thok reception centres were relocated to the camps to decongest both reception centres.

In Bulukat TC, Malakal, 1,860 individuals (5 boats) arrived from Renk, while 1,459 individuals departed by air to Wau, Juba, and Rubkona. Data from a headcount conducted on 24 February found the population of Bulukat to be 963 HH/ 3,997 Individuals including 2,012 males and 1,997 females - the population continues to fluctuate daily, depending on the flow of arrivals and departures.

Protection

In Renk, 635 individuals identified with specific needs were screened and transported from the reception centre in Joda/Wunthau border to the transit centre, together with their caregivers. 25 persons with disabilities (both refugees and returnees) in the transit centres received wheelchairs from the Chagai Foundation, a national NGO - UNHCR participated in the identification of persons with specific needs and the distribution process.

Protection desks analysis showed an increase in cases of physical violence in Renk, followed by theft, mainly attributed to lack of livelihoods among the new arrivals.

In Jamjang, the most urgent protection needs are registration, food, shelters, core relief items, education and livelihood activities to build self-reliance.

In Bentiu, returnees continue to report protection concerns across the entry routes which include, extortion/theft and harassment at checkpoints while fleeing from Khartoum.

In Makalal, inadequate food remains a major concern at the Bulukat Transit Centre, due to delayed onward transportation to the final destination. The number of police officers is also not enough to track and prevent crimes taking place at the centre.

Gender-based Violence

In Wedwil (Aweil), IRC Women Protection Empowerment (WPE) reached 253 people (94 women, 42 girls, 75 men, and 42 boys) through GBV awareness-raising sessions, featuring referral pathways and information on available services at the women and girls' safe spaces. IRC WPE also conducted four sessions on early/forced marriage with 63 Females (22 girls, 41 women) at the women girls' safe space.

Health and Nutrition

In most locations, the most common cause of morbidity were acute respiratory tract infections, followed by malaria and acute watery diarrhoea.

In Jamjang, four suspected cases of measles were identified among new arrivals. The response included surveillance, isolation of suspected cases, risk communication and community engagement.

The Commissioner for Refugee Affairs (CRA) and WFP, held initial discussions about the targeting of food distribution, which will start in July 2024. Refugee leaders, as well as women and youth leaders, were informed about upcoming changes. Both Pamir and Ajuong Thok leaders indicated that they do not agree with the targeted food distribution model, which they say will cause tensions among refugee communities – they favour the distribution of the available food on equal terms among everybody; this is in light of the previous consultations with community leaders which were carried out during the UNHCR-WFP joint hub mission in early 2023.

In Bor, health and nutrition partners reported a high malnutrition rate among young children especially in Akobo County. UNHCR will follow up with food security and livelihood partners. Health partners also reported an outbreak of measles in Twic East County, while WHO and other health partners continue to vaccinate children against Measles.

In Renk, nine births were facilitated by skilled delivery and 158 pregnant women were provided with antenatal care. All pregnant women receive iron and folate supplements, HIV/AIDS screening, malaria prophylaxis and mosquito nets. A total of 3,060 children were vaccinated against polio and measles, while COVID-19 vaccines were given to 810 new arrivals. Previously reported challenges persisted: critical shortage of oral antibiotics, low turn-up of refugees for health screening prior to relocation to Maban, absence of a latrine for mothers in labour at the reception centre, not enough ambulances for timely referrals, and inadequate water supply at the health facilities.

In Aweil, WHO declared an outbreak of measles in all five counties of Northern Bahr El Ghazal State. Reportedly, 30 IDP children were affected with measles with four deaths in Langawai village in Aweil East County. WHO and health partners are making interventions and monitoring the situation.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Renk, inconsistencies and delays in water delivery at Transit Site 2 continued throughout the week. Water usage at the transit centre is currently unregulated, and community leaders have reported that individuals are collecting water in an excessive numbers of jerrycans for resale.

In Wedwil (Aweil) community outreach workers have started distributing WASH materials targeting extremely vulnerable individuals, reaching 87 households/ 453 individuals. Items that were distributed per household included metallic buckets for bathing, soap and ropes for hanging clothes.

Cash Assistance (Core Relief Items)

In Renk, the blanket supplementary feeding program benefited 258 children (145 HH) under 5 years old needing assistance.

UGANDA

Highlights

- In collaboration with UNHCR, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) is initiating Level 2 (L2) registration for Sudanese refugees at Nyumanzi transit centre to facilitate their relocation directly to the Kiryandongo settlement. This will help to alleviate congestion at the reception centres 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

There were 518 Sudanese relocated to the Kiryandongo settlement. The limited number of buses is slowing down the relocation contributing to overcrowding at the reception centres.

In the past week, 514 households (1,310 individuals) from Adjumani, and an additional 56 households (201 individuals) from Nyumanzi reception centre, were relocated to Kiryandongo settlement bringing the total number of new arrivals relocated in 2024 to 9,213 individuals.

Protection

All registered individuals from Nyumanzi Reception Centre were issued attestation letters and refugee identification.

A total of 908 new arrivals (470M, 438F) in 398 households were received in Adjumani, Lamwo and Kiryandongo from Sudan and South Sudan, indicating an average daily arrival rate of 130 individuals in 57 households. Eight urban arrivals in one household were received and screened in Kampala.

Support to persons with specific needs (PSNs):

In Kiryandongo, 46 PSNs (29M, 17F) among the Sudanese new arrivals were identified, assessed, and supported.

Outreach to urban refugees:

A townhall meeting was held with refugees in Kampala on 12 March, attended by 109 persons. Attendees expressed gratitude to the Government of Uganda for its open-door policy and the ongoing support and welcome from the Ugandan people. Key concerns raised included language barriers affecting school access, challenges in pursuing higher education, limited access to psychosocial healthcare services, high costs of medication for chronic illnesses, difficulties in finding employment despite qualifications, delays in receiving documentation, inadequate services and insecurity in Kiryandongo. Refugees requested guidance on equating their degrees and certifications, Arabic interpreters at health facilities, education and employment opportunities.

Education

On 12 March, UNICEF delivered a consignment of 17 tents to support emergency shelters for education in the settlement schools in Kiryandongo. These will help to cover the gap in classrooms, especially in primary schools and early childhood development (ECDs), due to increased enrolment with the new Sudanese arrivals.

Health and Nutrition

Health screening in the reception centre continues and an outreach facility in the area where new arrivals are being settled is required.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

1,069 new arrivals in 381 households in Kiryandongo received CRIs/NFIs and plots of land to facilitate their settlement.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Refugees have complained that water is salty and not of good quality. Access to water in Kiryandongo is a challenge for all refugees there. A rainwater harvesting system was attached to the existing 10,000 litres tank at the reception centre to increase access.

The reception centre renovated the drainage systems of two-bathroom blocks and the laundry area, including the soak pits and reinstallation of high quality plastic pipes. The aim is to ensure proper wastewater flow, prevent stagnation around the bathrooms, and reduce the risk of water-related diseases associated with stagnated contaminated water. These two bathing facilities serve over 250 individuals.

In Kiryandongo, the shortage of water continues to be a significant problem, particularly where new arrivals are being settled. The insufficient water aquifer has been strained due to the increasing population in the area. To address this issue, on March 13, the Lutheran World Federation and Living Water International Uganda conducted geological surveys to identify suitable locations for drilling two production wells. This is intended to extend water access to the areas where new arrivals are being settled, alleviating the water shortage challenge.

Livelihoods and self-reliance

Some refugees have high levels of education and/or financial resources to sustain themselves. There are investments in the settlements and in the neighboring town, implying a prolonged stay necessitating a rapid development of livelihood.

More support is needed to support their self-reliance at an early stage and reduce their potential dependency later. This could include easing access to markets, connecting them with the private sector, and recognition of refugees with qualifications in medicine, engineering, that could support the response. Several refugees said they did not want to sit by idly or see their education go to waste.

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. As of 20 March, the total funding for the RRP reached some USD 67.77 million or **4%** of the requirements.

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 20 March, the total funding for the HRP reached some USD 135 million or **5%** 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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