

Central African Republic (CAR) – SUDAN SITUATION

7–13 March 2024



In Korsi, children play with some adults during a community session. @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.
- [Famine looms in Sudan as civil war survivors tell of killings and rapes \(bbc.com\)](#). 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](#) 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](#) 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. It 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.

Situation and Operational Response

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 civilians' lives and affected the region's humanitarian efforts.
- 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. The identification and registration of refugee children from Korsi who were born during flight and in Korsi is ongoing to establish their birth certificates.

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

INTEROS 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 & 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. INTERSOS also conducted six awareness-raising sessions on using dignity kits and sanitary pads, reaching 1,100 women and girls.

Accountability

UNHCR partner INTERSOS 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 were 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. INTERSOS 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).

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 (CAR)** 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. As of 20 March, the funding for the CAR reached some USD 18.35 million or **43%** of the requirements.

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); **Gloria Ramazani** – External Relations Officer (ramazang@unhcr.org).

Follow us on our [X \(twitter.com\)](#) [UNHCR Centrafrique | Bangui | Facebook](#)