SUDAN SITUATION
1 May 2024

Community psychosocial support for refugee women showing at the Korsi-Birao site in the Central African Republic. © UNHCR/Stella Fatime

Highlights

▪ It has been over one year since the outbreak of conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Sudan has become one of the world’s worst humanitarian tragedies and one of the largest internal displacement crises globally.

▪ On 25 April, the United Nation’s Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator said that more than a year into the battle for control of the country between rival militaries, the “barbaric acts” being committed “echo the horrors witnessed in Darfur two decades ago”. They urged Security Council members to take immediate action to ensure an end to the wave of sexual violence being carried out against women and girls in Sudan.

▪ On 27 April, UN Security Council members called on the two parties in Sudan to immediately halt the military build-up and take steps to de-escalate the situation in El Fasher, North Darfur. The call comes amid reports of an imminent offensive by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and their allied militia against the city. On 29 April, the United States ambassador to the UN, warned that more than 2 million people in El Fasher, are under imminent threat of a “large-scale massacre” and urged the international community to pressure the two warring parties to scale back. The UN Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator also warned that an escalation of hostilities there would be “catastrophic”.

EXTERNAL UPDATE #59
Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- During the past week, the security situation in Sudan was volatile and complex, with several concerning developments, impacting the humanitarian crisis in various regions, particularly in the Darfur States.
- A joint assessment mission by UNHCR, Commissioner for Refugees (COR) and JASMAR for Human Security, to Omdurman, Khartoum State, took place on 23-26 April to evaluate the humanitarian situation and urgent needs of displaced populations affected by the conflict. The mission members held meetings with local authorities, refugees, and internally displaced communities, and visited sites hosting displaced populations in Omdurman. The findings highlighted significant humanitarian needs, limited access to essential services such as food, shelter, health care, and livelihood opportunities alongside significant protection challenges, safety concerns, reports of gender-based violence, inadequate legal support, and insufficient child protection measures. The mission noted the need to strengthen partners’ capacity and mobilize resources to meet the urgent needs of the displaced populations.
- The Inter-agency Emergency Directors’ Group (EDG) mission comprising representatives from ICVA, IOM, InterAction, OCHA, NRC, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and World Vision arrived in Port Sudan on 28 April. The mission aims to engage with the humanitarian community and local authorities to assess additional resource needs to sustain operations, support fundraising and advocacy efforts, and identify strategies to overcome access constraints and bureaucratic impediments. The delegation will also visit sites hosting people displaced by the ongoing conflict.
Population movements and Registration

In Wadi Halfa, Northern State, the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), reported the arrival of 90 people (34 households) displaced from various conflict-affected states, including Khartoum, Al Jazirah, White Nile, and River Nile States.

During the reporting period, 89 refugee and asylum-seekers from Eritrea and Ethiopia arrived in Kassala and Gedaref States. Another 105 refugees and asylum-seekers displaced by the ongoing conflict in Sudan arrived in Um Rakuba (70) and Tunaydbah (35) refugee camps in Gedaref State from Singa in Sennar State.

During the reporting period, UNHCR registered 155 refugees in Kassala (149) and Gedaref (6) States. As part of regular verification, 381 cases’ data was updated in UNHCRs database proGres and 20 refugees were biometrically verified. Data updating efforts included the addition of 58 newborn babies to their families’ profiles in Kassala State and the registration of 5 newborns in Gedaref by COR and UNHCR. New photo slips were issued for the heads of households to reflect these updates.

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) reported that 102 IDP families returned from Kassala State to Khartoum with support from the local Alms Office (Dewan El Zakah). SRCS noted an increase in requests from IDP families for support to return to Khartoum.

Protection

UNHCR in Wadi Halfa conducted an online Protection Monitoring Tool training for members of the Northern State Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) to familiarize participants with the tool's content and ethical procedures required during data collection. Participants will obtain access to the Kobo server for data collection in Wadi Halfa and Dongola localities.

UNHCR conducted two capacity-building trainings for 48 community-based protection network (CBPN) members residing in gathering sites. SRCS, Mutawinat, Nada El Azhar, HAC, and the Wadi Halfa Emergency Room facilitated the training sessions. They provided CBPN members with information on the activities they are implementing to support displaced people in Wadi Halfa. The training covered various topics, including the UNHCR Mandate and Protection of Civilians (PoCs), Code of Conduct, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection, and the Roles and Responsibilities of CBPN members.

During the reporting period, UNHCR provided individual counseling to 279 refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) at protection help desks in Kassala and Gedaref States. Refugees expressed concerns regarding medicine shortages, inflation, insufficient food rations, and resettlement procedures, while IDPs raised issues concerning cash support, education, livelihood opportunities, core relief items (CRIs), and medical assistance. UNHCR offered counseling and facilitated referrals to relevant units for further assistance and feedback. In Gedaref, the counseling efforts reached refugees in Tunaydbah (73), Um Rakuba (50), Babikri (67), and Um Gargour (48), addressing concerns related to shelter/NFIs, livelihood support, food assistance, and medical support. Referral processes were initiated across all camps to facilitate refugee access to the services.

Additionally, during the reporting period, UNHCR's partner ALIGHT initiated referrals for 51 persons with specific needs to receive tailored support, distributed across Tunaydbah, Um Rakuba, Babikri, and Um Gargour camps in Gedaref State.

Legal

A legal awareness session organized by UNHCR's partner Mutawinat, in collaboration with COR and local police, took place in Gedaref for 250 secondary displaced refugees and asylum-seekers who had relocated to Um Gargour refugee camp. The session aimed to familiarize attendees with domestic criminal laws and their rights and obligations as refugees in Sudan. This initiative was prompted by reports of escalating incidents of crime within the refugee community in Um Gargour camp in Gedaref.

In Kassala State, Mutawinat monitored 58 individuals intercepted by immigration authorities, detained and charged with illegal entry into Sudan (5) and unpermitted exit from the camps (53). Of those charged with illegal entry, 2 have been released to COR for further processing of their asylum claims.
while 3 will stand trial. Meanwhile, Mutawinat will support the group of 53 refugees arrested on charges of unpermitted exit from the camps with legal representation before the court.

In Blue Nile State, Mutawinat conducted two open legal seminars for 300 IDPs and host community members to raise awareness on the importance of civil documentation, the procedures required to obtain these documents, national laws, gender-based violence (GBV) and the support services available.

Prevention and Response against gender-based violence (GBV)

ALIGHT in Gedaref received a total of 809 women and girls across various centers in Tunaydbah (173), Um Rakuba (422), Babikri (101), and Um Gargour (113). They received protection services such as tailored psychosocial support and case management for survivors of violence. ALIGHT also conducted life skills sessions and organized social and recreational activities.

Additionally, ALIGHT conducted 5 awareness sessions on GBV topics in Gedaref, reaching a total of 114 participants in Tunaydbah (36), Um Rakuba (43), Babikri (22), and Um Gargour (13). These sessions provided information on preventing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), as well as details on available reporting mechanisms and referral pathways. Participants expressed concerns about the need for income-generation activities and vocational training, citing economic hardship as a contributing factor to increased GBV incidents in the camps.

Child Protection

In Kassala State, UNHCR’s partner Plan International initiated Best Interests Assessments (BIA) for 14 newly arrived unaccompanied children in Shagarab camp to determine their needs and identify the way forward to assist them. Additionally, seven children’s BIA were completed in Shagarab and Kilo 26 camps resulting in medical referrals, nutrition support, and mental health and psychosocial support.

In Gedaref State, UNHCRs partner ALIGHT identified and assessed 15 children-at-risk conducted BIA and made relevant referrals to other service providers. ALIGHT conducted five awareness-raising sessions on child protection issues for 265 refugees Tunaydbah, Um Rakuba, Babikri, and Um Gargour camps. Participants raised concerns about the re-opening of secondary schools, the need to reinstate food assistance to a full ration, the importance of increasing awareness on fire prevention, and concerns about shelter given the upcoming rainy season.

Health and Nutrition

In Gedaref State, UNHCR handed over a generator to the Gedaref Teaching Hospital, the primary health care facility serving the local community, internally displaced and refugees in Gedaref State and surrounding areas. The hospital also receives referrals from refugee camps in the state.

In White Nile State, over 6,500 patients from both refugee (88%) and host communities visited health care facilities in Jourie, Al Radeis-2, Aljameya, Um Sangour, Dabat Bosin, Alagaya and Khor Alwarel refugee camps. The data shows that respiratory tract infections accounted for 28.7 per cent of illnesses, malaria for 14.6 per cent, and diarrhea for 13.5 per cent. There haven't been any major changes in the trend of these illness rates.

In White Nile State, UNHCR finished distributing medicines and medical supplies for the second quarter to eight out of ten camps. The remaining two camps, Al Radeis 1 and Al Radeis 2, are scheduled to receive their supplies in the upcoming week.

Medical Teams International (MTI) organized 20 training sessions for mother-to-mother support groups on Infant and Young Child Feeding practices (IYCF) at Al Radeis-2 training hall from 23-27 April. Additionally, 25 nutrition staff members participated in a three-day training on IYCF-E at Khor Alwarel health center from 24-26 April.

WFP concluded general food distribution covering April and May in Tunaydbah, Um Rakuba, and Babikri refugee camps and Village 8 in Gedaref State for 14,830 households comprising 38,213 people.

The quarterly mass Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) nutrition status screening was conducted by MTI in Um Gargour refugee camp. The results indicated that 200 children (13 per cent) were affected by MAM and 31 children (2 per cent) were affected by SAM. According to the findings, the nutrition status is considered critical in the camp and requires close monitoring and strengthening of infant and
young child feeding (IYCF). The nutrition status in the camp has been consistently poor as observed in previous nutrition surveys and assessments.

UNHCR's health partner, CAFA Development Organization, provided various medical and nutrition services to 797 refugees, asylum-seekers, and members of the host community were reached in Camp 6 of Blue Nile State.

**Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)**

UNHCR provides non-food items to forcibly displaced people across Sudan. Standard CRI kits comprise blankets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, plastic sheets, kitchen sets, and solar lamps. In the last week 300 IDP and refugee households comprising 1,500 individuals received CRI kits in Wadi Halfa, Northern State, Girba town Kassala State and Gedaref State though UNHCR's partners SRCS, Welthungerhilfe and Sudanese Organization for Relief & Recovery, respectively.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

During the reporting period, UNHCR and its partners conducted hygiene promoting campaigns, ensured access to safe drinking water, and repaired and maintained water supply systems in refugee camps in White Nile, Blue Nile, Gedaref, and Kassala States.

In Gedaref State, there are 4,086 household latrines and 5,644 communal latrines in use, with an average coverage of 19 persons per latrine, meeting the UNHCR standard for post-emergency settings of ≤20 persons/latrine according to the WASH Manual. Desludging activities are ongoing in Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah, and Um Gargour camps, with close to 80 per cent of the latrines emptied.

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)**

**Highlights**

- The security situation remains volatile and unpredictable in the Vakaga prefecture due to the presence of non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in localities neighboring Birao, such as Saf-Rah, Haifla, Boromata, Am Dafock, Tiringoulo and in Birao. This prefecture hosts most of the Sudanese refugees in CAR, and the activism and presence of NSAGs continue to disrupt the lives of civilians and humanitarian interventions in the region, including freedom of movement. This increased the number of human rights violations recorded in Birao town.
- Continuing military operations by the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) and their allies in the Vakaga prefecture and the prefectures hosting refugees and armed groups could undermine the fragile protection environment. This could lead to suspending or restricting movement in certain villages, particularly for humanitarian aid workers.
- UNHCR and the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) continued coordinating border monitoring, reception, screening, and registration of new arrivals. Along with CNR and humanitarian partners, UNHCR provided lifesaving assistance, including protection services, food, CRIs, emergency shelter, health care and education at Korsi settlement.
- The Minister for Humanitarian Action visited Korsi where she inaugurated a 1,000-litre water tower funded by UN Women, which will contribute to the water distribution capacity in Korsi.

**Population Movements and Registration**

29,444 forcibly displaced people from Sudan have arrived in CAR since April 2023, including 23,286 Sudanese refugees and 6,158 Central African returnees (former CAR refugees in Sudan). Since the beginning of the year, 8,075 newly arrived Sudanese (3,575 households) have been recorded. Additionally, other movements have been reported in other localities, and further registration missions are scheduled for May in Sam Ouandja, Bria, Ippy, and Mboki, targeting around 4,000 refugees.

A total of 14,858 (5,181 households) Sudanese refugees have been biometrically registered and live in 13 localities, mostly in hard-to-reach locations outside Vakaga prefecture and in need of protection and assistance. Biometric registration is underway for the Sudanese refugees who are already pre-registered.
Local authorities reported two small waves of new arrivals in Sikikede in the Vakaga and in Pombolo in the Mbomou Prefectures. An assessment mission to Sikikede confirmed the figures of 1,911 new arrivals, while in Pombolo, the mission counted 265 refugees, with more on the way, according to the refugees. The pre-registration mission with government for these two groups is planned during the course of May, security and logistical conditions permitting.

Refugee registration is ongoing in locations other than Vakaga. From 12-26 April 2024, a registration mission was carried out in the Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture. 1,449 Sudanese refugees were biometrically registered in the localities of Akrousoulback, Koundji, Zobossinda and Ndele. The population in Korsi (Vakaga prefecture) is 11,243 Sudanese refugees (4,902 households). The situation in Korsi is dire and has led to severe deterioration in hygiene and sanitation conditions, with only 74 function latrine and over 150 people per emergency latrine. The quantity of water distributed has also fallen below 12 liters per person per day - this despite doubling the potable water output since January. UNHCR and UNICEF are working in close collaboration, pooling their resources and expertise, to explore their ability to support the WASH response to the Sudanese emergency and provide a better response in this sector.

Protection
Reception and registration
The Central African Republic (CAR) has continued to keep its borders open to allow access to refugees and asylum seekers from all countries. Wherever the presence of new refugees has been confirmed, notably in the Mbomou/Rafai prefecture (Mbibro, Ngutifor and Dembia), the Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture (Ndele, Akoursoulbak Zobossinda, Koundjii), Haute-Kotto (Sam-Ouandja and Bria) and the Ouaka prefecture (Bambari and Ippy), government personnel have been deployed to ensure the pre-registration and documentation of new arrivals.

All Sudanese arriving in CAR are recognized as prima facie refugees. Following biometric registration, refugee cards are systematically issued to all refugees over the age of 12.

A mobile registration team has been established to ensure individual registration and biometric enrolment in all areas where the presence of refugees is confirmed.

Protection monitoring
INTEROS conducted 15 monitoring visits, including four in the host community of Birao and 11 to Korsi. These visits enabled the management of GBV cases, updated the lists of people with specific needs, and identified and documented protection incidents. A total of 89 protection incidents were identified, including 49 cases of violation of property rights and cases of physical violence.

Five perception surveys were also conducted among newly arrived refugee households in Korsi, enabling the identification of their most urgent needs, which are food, core relief items, drinking water, and shelter.

In addition, nine border monitoring visits were conducted at Am Dafock to assess the protection situation of refugees and the collection of GBV-related incidents. Refugees and the host community members have reported regular movements of armed men that led to the restriction of their movement on the main roads' axis.

At the information and feedback center, a total of 100 requests for information and assistance were registered and documented, and 82 feedbacks were given to refugees. The primary requests concerned cases of refugees whose names had not appeared on the distribution and assistance lists for over three months and questions relating to food assistance.

Prevention and Response against gender-based violence (GBV)
In the Korsi safe space, GBV cases were received and documented, cases of physical violence, forced marriage, rape, psychological violence and denial of resources and opportunities. All survivors received psychosocial support, and survivors of physical violence and rape were referred to the IMC health center and received the necessary treatment.
UNHCR’s partner, INTERSOS, distributed dignity kits, consisting of a mosquito net, clothing, fabric, a whistle, a solar lamp, a wash basin, and both reusable and disposable menstrual hygiene pads.

Fifty-six individual counseling sessions were conducted with newly arrived people with specific needs in Korsi. Finally, three group therapy sessions were held at the Korsi safe space, with 216 women and girls participating.

Health and Nutrition
UNFPA’s partner Olivier Homme de Galilee, assisted two deliveries of refugee women in Korsi.

NOURRIR and International Medical Corps (IMC) completed 573 medical consultations, benefiting 87 host community members and 486 refugees, including 144 new arrivals to Korsi. Since the beginning of the year, 12,032 curative consultations have been carried out in Korsi to respond to the Sudan crisis, including 1,216 host community members. The top three causes of morbidity were malaria, respiratory infections and intestinal parasitosis. All patients were managed on an outpatient basis.

This week, the medical team followed up on 11 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and two cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

WFP food distribution was completed this week, and 4,394 households of 9,712 people were planned, with an execution rate of 87%. This week only, 3,534 households of 8,486 people were served.

CHAD
Highlights

- UNHCR invited partners to an ad hoc coordination meeting on the Sudan emergency on 29 April. The meeting discussed with partners the opening of the sixth new refugee site Dougui (approximately 110 kilometers from Adre), and the financial/material needs to start the relocation of part of the 150,000 new Sudanese arrivals currently at the Adre spontaneous refugee site before the commencement of the rainy season.
- In Chad, during the rainy season, the “Waadi” phenomenon (seasonal floods) hinders humanitarian access to operational areas. Donor funded helicopter support for humanitarian operations, as was done in 2023, is being explored.

Population movements and Registration
This reporting week, 5,992 new arrivals (1,386 households) crossed into Chad, mainly through the Adre/Adiknog border crossing points in the Ouaddai Province. The new arrivals come mainly from Kondobe, Ardamanta, El-Geneina, and a few other localities. As of 28 April, the Government of Chad, through the Commission Nationale d’Accueil de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés (CNARR), has counted a total of 585,201 individuals (165,861 households) new arrivals including 96,181 that have crossed since January 2024. Most new arrivals are women and children (88%), and 14% are persons with specific needs.

Relocation
The relocation of new refugees from Saraf-Bourgou, in department of Tissi, to the Kerfi site in the Sila province continued during the week, with 156 individuals (41 households). In total, 2,059 individuals (497 households) have been relocated since the start of this exercise on 30 March 2024. With the collaboration of UNHCR, CNARR and partners, the relocated refugees benefit from basic assistance, including shelter, food, non-food items, clean water, and primary health care. In total, 261,013 individuals (71,105 households) have been relocated since the start of the emergency on 15 April 2023.

Protection
On 26 April, the CNARR coordinated an awareness meeting at the Treguine refugee site on the elections of refugee committees that work closely with partners and their communities. All camp committees and partners attended the meeting. The electoral code and internal regulations were explained during the meeting.

Prevention and Response against gender-based violence (GBV)
The Croix Rouge du Tchad (CRT) carried out an awareness campaign in the four Hadjer Hadid sites, focusing on the denunciation of sexual abuse and exploitation, domestic violence and the promotion of peaceful cohabitation. A total of 1,183 people were in attendance.

During the reporting period, 147 people at risk of gender-based violence received tailored support (medical, psychosocial, security and legal care, survival services, referrals).

On the preventive side, 186 were made aware of gender-based violence (GBV) typologies (rape, early marriage, denial of resources etc.) and the need to report the cases to community mobilizers and members.

52 people who are members of the GBV committees of the Amnabak, Oure-cassonie, Allacha and Arkoum refugee sites were trained on the concepts of GBV, the typologies, the services available, and the referral pathways.

46 community relays working for APLFT, HIAS, JRS and the Chadian Red Cross (CRT) in the Djabal camp were trained in “basic psychosocial care of GBV cases.

**Education**

More than 36,500 children, including more than 600 Chadians, are registered in the 81 temporary learning spaces (TLS) built in the four new sites (Zabout, Ourang, Metche, and Arkom) and the extension sites. A total of 1,886 additional classrooms are needed by the operation to accommodate children in conducive learning spaces, as well as 1,886 teachers for the various schools in the refugee settlements.

306 refugee teachers have been recruited, including 224 trained by partners (JRS, Plan International, and NRS) in collaboration with UNHCR and the Ministry of National Education and Civic Promotion via departmental inspections and the ministry’s decentralized entities.

780 new refugee candidates were enrolled for the 2024 national baccalaureate examination.

The members of the Education Sector Group validated the Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for the Education Response in Eastern Chad. These SoPs will help harmonize the response activities undertaken by different actors.

**Health and Nutrition**

Overall, within the health sector, there is additional need for 200 health workers and 13 ambulances to cover the gap in the referral process of 6,150 referral cases. Additional funds are also needed to take care of 52,050 mental health cases, four nutritional stabilization centers and the rehabilitation/extension of 16 health centers across the operation.

483,923 medical consultations have been carried out since the start of the emergency, including 17,914 over the past week. Malaria, acute respiratory infections (ARI), watery diarrhea and malnutrition remain the main pathologies.

Since the start of the crisis, 433,549 children have been screened for malnutrition; 39,134 cases of MAM and 18,293 cases of SAM were treated for children aged 6 to 59 months. Over the past week, 11,687 children were screened, including 980 MAM and 545 SAM.

At the Adré border, nutritional surveillance by MSF-France detected increased malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months among the newly arriving refugees during the week. Despite this, the situation remains stable, with a SAM rate of 2.2 per cent over the last four weeks and an overall malnutrition rate of less than 10 per cent.

43,041 pregnant and breastfeeding women were screened, and 4,771 cases of MAM were treated. In the past week, 2,815 pregnant women were screened, including 191 cases of MAM.

In the refugee sites in the Sila Province, peer educators sensitized refugee women on the importance of prenatal visits at the health centres.

6,2482 deliveries attended by qualified health personnel have been recorded since the start of the emergency, including 207 deliveries last week.
14,921 mental health cases were received for consultation and treatment, including 159 new cases last week.

There was an increase in hepatitis E cases during the reporting period. A total of 2,460 hepatitis E cases were recorded in the six refugee sites (Adré, Aboutengue, Metche, Allacha, Ambelia, and Arkoum), compared to 1,709 cases last week. During the reporting period, the incident manager appointed by the Minister of Health to manage hepatitis E was on a mission in the Ouaddai Province. This mission met with local stakeholders and the health and WASH sectors to strengthen measures to combat hepatitis E.

The general food distribution in Adré and Metche assisted 187,214 individuals (45,451 households). It also provided nutritional assistance to 10,579 children aged 6 to 23 months and 5,179 pregnant and breastfeeding women.

**Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)**

The Chadian Red Cross built 239 emergency family shelters, which were allocated to recently relocated families from Adré. In Kerfi, INTERSOS handed over 400 newly constructed emergency shelters to relocate new arrivals.

Cumulatively, 62,327 emergency shelters have been built since the start of the emergency. UNHCR in Chad needs an additional 19,540 additional shelters to house the 170,000 new arrivals at the various refugee spontaneous sites.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

In Arkoum, only 5 liters of water per person daily are available. Efforts are underway to address this situation, including continued coordination with partners to ensure short and long-term solutions are found. Actions are also planned to improve access to water in Adré due to the increased influx of Sudanese refugees and review access to latrines. To meet the recommended Sphere Standards of 15 liters of water per day per person, UNHCR and partners need an additional 237 water distribution points, 80 boreholes and 38 75/93/M3 water storage tanks.

Progress is being made on the Aboutengue and Metché water systems, which has helped reduce water trucking. Work is almost complete at Aboutengue, and the installation of booster stations is pending. Metché's network is 50 per cent complete, with additional drilling carried out by LMI.

LMI finalized 300 blocks of emergency latrines/showers in Kerfi. A gap of 14,446 latrines needs to be covered for the remaining refugees to avoid the outbreak of water and sanitation-related diseases.

UNHCR’s partner Secours Catholiques pour le Développement (SECADEV) organized three sensitization sessions on the need to maintain a healthy environment in the Mille and Kounougou refugee sites. More than 1000 refugees participated in the event.

**EGYPT**

**Highlights**

- Record low no-show rates for registration appointments underscore registration’s vital recognized role among refugees and asylum seekers in the context of the Sudan crisis context. The no-show rate for new registration appointments currently stands at 11%, a historically low from the average rate of 20% over recent years.

- UNHCR High Profile Supporter Maher Zain visited Egypt on 21 April to highlight UNHCR’s response to the Sudan Emergency. The visit included a UNHCR registration centre where he was briefed on UNHCR’s challenge to meet the huge demand from Sudanese to register as asylum-seekers and refugees for assistance and protection, and on current needs and challenges. He also visited a community centre run by a UNHCR partner in Greater Cairo and met with Sudanese new arrivals of different ages and backgrounds who shared their stories. Zain also met with the UNHCR Representative to Egypt and expressed his appreciation for the work of UNHCR in response to the Sudan crisis.
Population Movements and Registration

UNHCR registered 10,593 refugees and asylum-seekers last week, 91% new arrivals from Sudan. As of 26 April 2024, UNHCR Egypt provided pre-registration appointments to 500,479 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, 247,408 individuals have already been registered (49%). Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (94%), followed by South Sudanese (3%), and Eritrean (2%). In terms of new arrival registration trends, females remain at 54%. The great majority of new arrivals registered originate from Khartoum (88%), and 20% of those registered have one or more specific needs, such as lack of legal documentation, children at risk, people with disabilities, or serious medical conditions. Concerns remain due to the continued rise of reported irregular crossings into Egypt.

Protection

On 27 April, UNHCR participated in Cairo in the International Training at the Egyptian Police Academy (ITEPA) project, co-organized by the Italian Ministry of Interior, to train border guards in 21 African countries on various border management topics, including mixed movements, trafficking, and smuggling as well as international refugee law concepts. The training, which is carried out over 4 weeks, will include sessions by various agencies including UNHCR, IOM, EUAA, and Frontex. UNHCR provided a keynote speech highlighting the Sudan situation, and the exponential increase in crossings into Egypt and registered refugees and reiterated UNHCR’s continued work with the GoE. Further, UNHCR emphasized the need to protect refugees and vulnerable migrants in the context of mixed movements and UNHCR’s continued support in addressing mixed movements, in partnership with the GoE. Also last week, as part of an agreement with the Egyptian Ministry of Defence, UNHCR delivered a workshop to 12 border guards in Cairo.

Community-based protection

Over the last week, refugee outreach workers provided information to some 3,030 refugees and asylum-seekers at UNHCR’s Reception Centre in Greater Cairo on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. Furthermore, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided basic counselling to 1,850 new arrivals and referred 15 cases for in-depth psycho-social assessment.

With UNHCR support, more than 30 mostly Sudanese refugees participated in the “Mediterranean International Summit of Creative Economy MISCE 2024” in Alexandria on 22 April. The event convened international and local partners along with diverse speakers who talked about the challenges faced by Egypt's cultural and creative industries, innovation and the digital revolution in creative projects, sustainable methodologies for cultural institution development, and the future of creative cities. The event was supported by the Ministry of Culture, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, the British University in Egypt, the International Council of Museums, the Jesuit Cultural Center, the Goethe Institute, and the French Consulate, among others. Alongside the summit, Sudanese and Syrian refugees also took part in a parallel cultural exhibition, showcasing products that reflect their cultural heritage.

Prevention and Response against gender-based violence (GBV)

On 22 April, UNHCR organized a community engagement session in Greater Cairo attended by 37 Sudanese newly arrived women. The session tackled sexual and reproductive health for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and included an overview of what is GBV and its types, the possible barriers of reporting GBV and the stigma surrounding GBV survivors. The session also highlighted the safety of the body from reproductive diseases, the freedom to choose to have children, and women's mental health, the risks of early marriage, and the effects of physical and sexual violence on pregnant women. Furthermore, it was highlighted the physical, medical, and emotional consequences of rape which included unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, unsafe abortions, psychological, behavioral, and mental effects on the survivors. Lastly, the facilitator provided an overview of services for GBV survivors, starting from the base which is the basic needs and safety, society and family support, non-specialized services and then at the top specialized services.

UNHCR’s partner distributed 109 menstrual care kits to female school-age adolescents. The objective of the distribution of the kits was to foster an environment conducive to sustained education through the provision of essential menstrual care items to Sudanese newly arrival female students. It also aimed
to support them attend their schools without missing days. A UNHCR partner organization also facilitated awareness sessions to students and parents receiving the kits, to orient them on the different services provided by UNHCR and its partners to mitigate and prevent GBV risks, and to raise participants’ awareness of the different relevant terminologies and reporting channels.

**Infoline**

Over the past week, UNHCR Egypt’s Infoline handled a total of 8,140 inquiries, of which 2,900 new registration appointments (36%) were allocated to 7,691 individuals who had fled from the conflict in Sudan. The proportion of callers from Greater Cairo, including Giza and 6th October City, was 88%, 4% for Aswan, 3% for Alexandria, and 5% for other cities. 98% of registration appointments for new arrivals from Sudan were allocated to Sudanese individuals. Among those seeking registration appointments, females represented 62%. Since the start of the conflict to date, 340,000 new arrivals from Sudan, comprising 128,000 cases, have received appointments via the Infoline.

Furthermore, 75% of the total inquiries were related to registration, followed by 10% for assistance. Additionally, Infoline booked an average of 581 appointments per day for an average of 1,538 individuals.

**Cash Assistance and Livelihoods**

During the period 21-27 April, 218 newly arrived Sudanese households underwent a vulnerability assessment to determine their eligibility for bimonthly cash support. The total number of newly arrived Sudanese families assessed by UNHCR since the beginning of the crisis is now 27,559. Of them, 3,602 households (15,774 individuals) have received the Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA).

UNHCR also conducts rapid needs assessments to provide Emergency Cash Assistance (ECA) in Aswan. During the reporting period, 29 households, 76 individuals, were assessed bringing the total to 4,268 families, 12,204 individuals, since the beginning of the crisis in Aswan. 18 households (50 individuals) were found eligible as per the rapid needs assessment criteria in the past week. To date, 2,880 families comprising 8,845 individuals have been found eligible for one-off ECA through this assessment modality.

A total of 20,732 registered and unregistered households (56,433 individuals) have been identified as eligible for the one-off ECA, out of whom 16,868 families (48,647 individuals) have successfully received their assistance.

**ETHIOPIA**

**Highlights**

- Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, a total of 53,572 individuals (23,543 households) in need of international protection crossed the border from Sudan to Ethiopia. 21,552 individuals crossed through the Metema entry point in Amhara, 23,047 individuals through the Kurmuk entry point in Benishangul Gumuz, and 700 individuals at different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey). Some 8,273 Ethiopian refugee returnees also arrived.
- A multi donor mission travelled to Ethiopia from 22-26 April. Part of the group, including USA, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Luxembourg, France, Finland, the delegation of the EU, and Sweden travelled to Kurmuk Transit Center and Ura Settlement on 23 and 25 April 2024 and witnessed firsthand the response being set up by UNHCR and partners at the Kurmuk Transit Center and the inclusion approach being developed at Ura Settlement whereby refugees will have access to the national services, such as schools, health facilities and WASH systems.

**Population Movement and Registration**

In Benishangul Gumuz region, L1 registration was conducted for 132 individuals (69 households) at Kurmuk Transit Centre. The total L1 registration for new arrivals is 23,047 individuals since the start of the conflict in April 2023.
In Amhara region, L1 registration was conducted for 28 individuals (18 households) at Kumer refugee site. A total of 21,552 individuals have undergone L1 registration since the start of the conflict.

New arrivals continue to cross into Ethiopia through the Metema entry point. Most of them are travelling to Addis Ababa or Gondar after receiving entry visa from the Metema immigration authorities. Several vehicles have been witnessed transporting new arrivals to Addis Ababa after the normal border process. Refugees have shared their concern on various occasions on the safety and security for themselves and their families at the transit center and in Awlala settlement. This has led to some spontaneously moving to Awlala where the recent protest of refugees have been addressed by UNHCR, RRS and local authorities through discussions with the Refugee Camp Committee and refugee community representative.

**Relocation**

In Amhara, relocation from the Kumer transit center to Awlala settlement was not conducted in April due to funding constraints. UNHCR is engaged with IOM to find a solution and IOM is actively seeking funds.

Relocation to the Ura settlement is planned to take place first week of May 2024. The initial plan has targeted to relocate 500 households to the settlement after ensuring basic infrastructure such as shelter and WASH facilities are in place. The grading works are completed for the new access road through the Regional Road and Transport Bureau while retaining wall construction is in progress. Partner Action for the Needy (ANE) continues to undertake shelter activities.

**Protection**

In Kumer, UNHCR commenced the Participatory Assessment (PA) exercise with partners to discuss the UNHCR 2024 PA exercise preparations. Subsequently, an age, gender, and diversity (AGD) training session were conducted for 11 staff members from partner organizations, 18 Refugee Central Committee (RCC) members, and community interpreters. Participants were introduced to the methodology, focus group discussion (FGD) questionnaire, and the use of the KOBO tool for data collection. As part of the PA five focus group discussions with 53 individuals, and 68 individuals participated in Key Informant Interviews.

**Child Protection**

In Kurmuk, 45 separated children were identified and registered by Plan International Ethiopia (PIE). The cumulative figure of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC) since the beginning of the crisis stands at 1,344. Of the total, 1,151 are separated children, while 49 are unaccompanied children and 144 are other vulnerable children.

Rapid Best Interests Assessments (BIAs) have been conducted by Plan International in Kurmuk. A total of 13 separated children were reached. A total of 1,033 cases of UASC and OVC have been addressed through rapid BIAs since the start of the influx in April 2023.

In Kumer, UNHCR’s partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) ensured timely and quality child protection response services throughout the reporting week, focusing on children’s best interests (BIA). IHS protection help desks received a total of five complaints from caregivers. These complaints included issues regarding birth certificates, shelter conditions and family reunification. IHS promptly referred these cases to RRS/UNHCR and the Red Cross. Additionally, IHS arranged temporary foster care for two unaccompanied children at the transit center. In efforts to strengthen child protection and prevent risks, the Protection team conducted home visits and follow-ups for 14 unaccompanied children and four separated children. During these visits, children raised concerns about access to firewood and food shortages.

Child friendly spaces (CFS) continued to provide basic literacy and numeracy activities as well as indoor and out-door activities in Awlala, Kumer and Kurmuk. In Awlala, 124 children and in Kumer, 77 children were engaged in the CFS activities. In Kurmuk 289 children took part in the CFS activities. The CFS provides a safe and nurturing environment for children, promoting their well-being and allowing them to participate in educational, recreational, and psychosocial activities.
Prevention of and Response to gender-based violence (GBV)

GBV cases were reported in Kurmuk during the reporting week. The cases were supported through multisectoral response mechanisms, guiding them toward the necessary services in addition to psychosocial well-being of the survivors. In addition, dignity kits were also provided.

Home to Home and mass awareness-raising sessions were conducted by International Rescue Committee (IRC) and MTI in Kurmuk for 290 individuals and in Kumer and Awalal for 225 individuals by DICAC on early marriage and its effects as well as on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Discussions focused on available services for survivors of gender-based violence (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 in 72 hours.

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

Education

Education in Emergency (EiE) program continued at Kurmuk transit center and a total of 190 students (53 girls, 137 boys) are attending in grades 1 and 2. This intervention covers only 3% of the needs.

Discussions were conducted to improve scholarship opportunities for refugee youth, focusing on appointing a focal person, providing ICT resources, ensuring internet access, sharing experiences with other UNHCR field offices, and implementing a Kobo toolbox for efficient data management.

Scholastic materials were provided for 371 host community school children and 266 refugee children.

The initial shipment of 99 combined school desks has been delivered to Kumer host community school, as part of UNHCR’s efforts to strengthen infrastructure in the Kumer host community, aligning with its inclusion strategy.

Renovation of school infrastructure has commenced at Kumer host community school, undertaken by local youth enterprise contractors.

Health and Nutrition

MTI is providing health services in Kurmuk. A total of 533 patients received clinical consultation services of whom 292 were under five children. Cumulatively, a total of 7,573 individuals have been reached since January 2024. Upper respiratory tract infection, lower respiratory tract infection, malaria, and diarrheal diseases were the major morbidity illnesses.

MTI and World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) are supporting the provision of health services through Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) in Kumer, Awlala and Metema transit centre. A total of 751 consultations were conducted including for 122 individuals from the host community. The prevalent diseases in children under-five include acute upper respiratory infections, diarrhea, eye disease, and intestinal worms. Among adults, OPD cases commonly involve acute upper respiratory infections, malaria.

Essential medications and supplies have been successfully delivered to the Gondar MTI facility and will be dedicated for Kumer site.

Health education sessions reached a total of 3,831 individuals in Kumer and 590 in Awlala.

In Kurmuk and Akendayo Kebele, GOAL conducted screening for 30 children under 5 years of age for acute malnutrition. Three severe acute malnutrition children were identified and admitted to the outpatient therapeutic program and targeted supplementary feeding programs respectively. Cumulatively, a total of 645 children have been screened in 2024 to date.

In Kumer, nutritional screening was conducted for children under five and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Sixteen new cases of MAM and two cases of SAM were identified among children under 5 years of age and 21 MAM cases among PLW. All cases were admitted to the outpatient therapeutic program and targeted supplementary feeding programs respectively.
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Kurmuk, to mitigate the continued water shortage at the transit centre, the operational partner International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP) started water trucking on 23 April. Accordingly, a total of 110,000 liters of water is being supplied daily by both IRC and CISP at the transit center which is approximately 7.9 liters/person/day.

WASH partner IRC continued activities in Ura settlement. It is planned to avail a drinking water supply by the end of April; 1.3 km pipeline trench excavation is completed, and 3 emergency water points are installed while water system connection works are ongoing. In addition, CISP continued the material delivery and excavation works of the planned communal latrine construction at the Ura refugee site.

In Kumer, UNICEF’s partner CRS provided 728m3 of chlorinated water to refugees in Metema transit centre, Kumer, and Awlala settlements, as well as to Kumer host communities. However, with an average of 9.31 liters per person per day, the quantity of water provided falls below the UNHCR post-emergency standards of 15 listers per person per day.

IHS’s community hygiene promoters conducted house-to-house sessions targeting 220 households in Kumer and the Transit Centre, focusing on topics like safe water management, personal hygiene, handwashing, and latrine usage.

UNHCR’s partner Action Aid Ethiopia conducted capacity-building training for 13 RCCs and hygiene promoters in Kumer.

In Awlala, UNHCR’s partner CRS completed construction on four shower blocks and excavated three communal semi-permanent latrines, this will bring the total functional showers to 35, significantly reducing the user to shower ratio, while progressing on four additional latrine blocks. CRS also repaired a vandalized emergency latrine by covering it with corrugated iron sheets.

Shelter

UNHCR’s partner ANE has continued shelter construction activities at the Ura refugee settlement. During the reporting period, demarcation of 506 shelters has been completed out of which 353 shelters are fully constructed, with only the plastic sheet covering pending. The plastic sheet covering will be finalized once new arrivals are relocated to ensure the safety of the plastic sheeting.

In Kumer and Awlala, shelter inspection assessments were conducted on 20 communal hangars and 32 transit sites to evaluate the structural stability and living conditions of the refugee community. Major damage was identified in three communal hangars at the transit site due to the removal of roofing plastic sheets. Water leakage was detected in seven communal hangars at Kumer, caused by worn-out and torn plastic sheet covers.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- As of 29 April, 654,485 individuals had arrived in South Sudan, with 5,839 arriving in the past week—a 12 per cent increase from last week, yet still significantly lower than the previous 10,000 weekly average. Returnee arrivals dropped by 11 per cent while refugees/asylum-seekers arrivals increased by 65 per cent since last week. Some 60 per cent of new arrivals arrived from White Nile.

Relocation

Refugees: On 24 April, UNHCR and partners relocated 78 individuals from Renk to Maban with a total 3,394 individuals relocated to Maban since the start of the year. A further 617 individuals were relocated to Jamjang/Ajuong Thok making forming a total of 1,698 individuals relocated to Ajuong Thok since the start of the year.

Returnees: 1,284 individuals (four boats) arrived from Renk to Malakal Transit Centre, while 1,031 individuals departed by boat from Malakal to Fangak, Ayot and Bentiu. An additional 1,390 individuals departed by air to Wau, Juba, and Rubkona.
Protection
In Maban, border monitoring visits indicated that women and girls constituted nearly half of all new arrivals via the Shatta, Elfoj, and Khortumbark entry points. It was also observed that most refugees travel from the border to the camp using cars. Those who arrive late are usually hosted for a night by host and refugee communities residing close to the border. Local administrations (Payams) also support in addressing urgent needs, however access to water at these border points remains a challenge.

In Maban, UNHCR is working to resolve tensions between host and refugee communities following receipt of a letter from host community traditional leaders accusing refugees of using protected agricultural land and petty crimes. Maban’s Peaceful co-existence committees are following up alongside Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA).

In Aweil, the ICRC Restoring Family Link mission in Wedweil Refugee Settlement attempted 1,020 calls to refugee relatives in Sudan, of which 248 were successful (reconnecting 2,587 individuals). Khartoum was not reachable, but the rest of the country appeared to have phone connectivity although unstable.

Health and Nutrition
In Aweil, three children have died in Wedwil Refugee Settlement this week of suspected measles, with an additional 40 suspected cases reported and undergoing treatment. The deaths are believed to be a result of delays alerting health actors to the cases, despite intensive awareness raising on symptoms and early detection. UNHCR and health partners have also initiated a vaccination campaign with 200 children vaccinated so far. Tents have also been erected at the health facility to increase admission capacity.

In Renk, health partners conducted 3,338 consultations across Joda Border Point Reception Centre and the Renk Transit Centres of which 49 per cent were refugees. The top three morbidities were respiratory tract infection (45%), malaria (8%) and acute watery diarrhea (7%).

Moreover, of the 1,943 children under five-years-old screened for malnutrition, seven per cent were diagnosed as moderately malnourished and admitted to targeted supplementary feeding program and two per cent were severely malnourished and admitted to an outpatient therapeutic program.

In Malakal, health actors are facing challenges with critically ill patients without caretakers and unaccompanied children without guardians. Discussions are ongoing to see if protection partners can provide additional support.

In Jamjang, UNHCR and IRC, continued the provision of basic health services at Panakuach Border Entry. A total of 154 consultations were conducted with the most common causes of morbidity being acute respiratory tract infections, followed by malaria and acute watery diarrhea. Additionally, 19 children were vaccinated against measles and polio, and supplemented with Vitamin A.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)
In Renk, the latest headcount identified 13,330 individuals residing in and around the transit centres, marking a 505 individual increase since the last count. Refugees accounted for 31 per cent of the population and South Sudanese returnees comprised the remainder.

In Renk, 23 out of 25 shelters assessed at the transit centre require rehabilitation. Although shelter teams have organized for this to take place next month, the degradation of the shelters in such a short space of time indicate the need to ensure more sustainable shelter solutions for new arrivals.

In Malakal the Bulukat Transit Centre continues to host approximately 3,019 individuals, almost all are South Sudanese returnees.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
In Renk, UNHCR and partners provided 20 litres of water per person per day, which exceeds emergency standards. Latrine coverage at the transit centers ranged from 1:59 to 1:63 individuals per latrine, an additional 110 latrine stances are required to bring the ratio in line with the emergency standard of 1:50.
UGANDA

Highlights
- There are 17,604 new arrivals from Sudan since the start of the year (including 15,947 in settlements) and 30,504 since the start of the crisis. During the period under review, a total of 763 Sudanese new arrivals were received in the settlements. Sudanese account for the largest number of new arrivals to Uganda so far this year.

Relocation
A total of 774 Sudanese new arrivals (310 households) at Kiryandongo reception centre were relocated from the centre to their designated family plots in collaboration with UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). Since the establishment of the Kampala registration desk in Kiryandongo, a total of 359 Sudanese refugees (175 households) have relocated to Kampala.

Protection
This past week, a total of 608 individuals (394 households) from Sudan (Darfur, Khartoum and Kordofan) were received in Adjumani and Kiryandongo. They were all registered in ProGres database awaiting relocation to their respective plots. Prima facie recognition for Sudanese asylum seekers remains in force.

48% (924) of the current population hosted at the reception centres of Nyumanzi, Lokung and Kiryandongo are Sudanese nationals. 359 of these have been registered and have requested to be relocated to Kampala.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
Due to the large influx of Sudanese refugees, there is additional pressure on all services in the Kiryandongo settlement, including already limited WASH facilities. This has resulted in a lack of safe water (10 litres per person per day) across the settlement.

The construction of 14 communal latrine blocks with 31 stances and 24 bath shelter blocks across was completed to serve approximately 1,550 and 1,200 new arrivals respectively.

A community sensitization session was held for 60 Sudanese refugees residing in Kiryandongo. It covered topics such as food hygiene, environmental cleanliness, solid waste management, handwashing, sanitation facilities and safe drinking water.

Livelihoods, Self-Reliance & Food Security
A mindset change training was conducted for 94 Sudanese new arrivals in Kiryandongo. The training aimed to help them adapt to life in the settlement and embrace Optimized Land Use Model (OLUM) for enhanced livelihoods. Participants shared their settlement experiences and coping strategies during the sessions.
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 1 May, the total funding for the RRP reached some USD 102 million or 8% 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 1 May, the total funding for the HRP reached some USD 277 million or 10% 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 31 March, the total available funding for the appeal is 12% of the funding requirements.

Resources
➢ UNHCR dashboard: Sudan Situation: One year on
➢ Data story: Sudan: One year of spiralling conflict and displacement
➢ End of Year Report Sudan Regional RRP 2023
➢ 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)

Contacts: Kabami Kalumiya – Reporting Officer, RBEHAGL (kalumiya@unhcr.org); Joyce Munyao-Mbithi Senior Donor Relations Officer, RBEHAGL (munyao@unhcr.org)