

## Central African Republic (CAR) – SUDAN SITUATION

15 May 2024



*Sudanese refugee women who fled armed conflict and sought refuge in the Central African Republic in the Vakaga Prefecture. © UNHCR/Stella Fatime*

### Highlights

- The Secretary-General has released [a statement](#) expressing grave concern at the outbreak of fighting in El Fasher, which puts over 800,000 civilians at risk. He is alarmed by reports of the use of heavy weaponry in densely populated areas, resulting in dozens of civilian casualties, significant displacement and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. He recalls that civilians in the area are already facing a looming famine and the consequences of over a year of war.
- The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Martin Griffiths, has warned that Sudan is at a tipping point, amid more alarming reports from El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur. In [posts on social media](#), Mr. Griffiths said that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has told the parties how they should protect civilians from this carnage – and the UN now expects them to do what the world and international humanitarian law expect. He warned that countless lives are at stake in El Fasher. Health care in the city is already coming under threat and medical supplies are running dangerously low in the Southern Hospital.
- As of 13 May, 30,108 forcibly displaced people from Sudan have arrived in CAR since April 2023, including 23,950 Sudanese refugees and 6,158 Central African returnees (former CAR refugees in Sudan).
- A total of 15,373 (6,154 households) Sudanese refugees have been biometrically registered and live in 13 localities, mostly in hard-to-reach locations outside the Vakaga prefecture.
- UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees distributed Shelter and core relief item kits to 146 households of 1,893 Sudanese refugees in Ndele and in the villages on the Ngarba axis (Akroussoulback, Kundji and Zobossinda).
- WFP distributed 904 digital ration cards to refugees to facilitate monthly dry food distribution.
- On 10 May, UNHCR distributed shelter and core relief item kits to 99 Sudanese refugee households in Ippy in Haute Kotto.

## Situation and Operational Response

- The security situation in the Vakaga region is relatively calm but remains unpredictable. Armed groups are still active in the Vakaga prefecture, with regular reports of robberies between Sam Ouandja and the town of Birao, exacerbated by human rights violations against the population. In addition, rumours of a probable plan to hold up and steal vehicles belonging to UN agencies and humanitarian organisations are becoming increasingly persistent.
- This week, three crucial missions were carried out in Birao and Am Dafock. Two joint missions led by UNICEF and UNHCR focused on Emergency Child Protection and bolstering WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) activities. These missions engaged with humanitarian stakeholders and young refugees in the Korsi district, to assess the pressing needs for latrines and clean water. Meanwhile, a team from UNHCR regional office in Dakar conducted a mission in Birao, extending support to the ongoing operations in the Central African Republic. This involved a comprehensive review and targeted interventions addressing various challenges encompassing governance, strategic planning, human resources, and budgetary considerations. The mission team diligently consulted with humanitarian partners, field personnel, and the National Commission for Refugees throughout their mission. As part of its comprehensive approach, the mission extended its reach to Am Dafock, a crucial point of entry along the Sudan border. This strategic visit, a key component of UNHCR strategy, underscored the commitment to ensuring the protection and welfare of forcefully displacement populations and other vulnerable groups across the region.
- UNHCR partner NOURRIR distributed 6,649 hot meal dishes provided by WFP and 5,683 breakfasts provided by UNHCR in Korsi.

### Population Movements and Registration

191 new arrivals (118 households) were registered, bringing the total number of refugees living in Korsi to 11,909 people of 6,272 families. UNHCR biometrically registered all new arrivals. Since the beginning of the year, 8,482 newly arrived Sudanese refugees (3,698 households) have been registered in Korsi. Due to the continued increase of the population in Korsi, hygiene and sanitation conditions in the settlement continue to deteriorate. The total number of usable latrines and showers on site remains at 74, giving a ratio of 161 people per latrine. The water supply rate is less than 12.6 liters per person daily during the week.

A total of 30,108 forcibly displaced people from Sudan have arrived in CAR since April 2023, including 23,950 Sudanese refugees and 6,158 Central African returnees (former CAR refugees in Sudan). 15,373 (6,154 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 rest of the Sudanese refugees who have not been biometrically enrolled.

### 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 entry points. Wherever, the presence of new arrivals has been confirmed, notably in the Mbomou/Rafai prefecture (Mbiro, Ngutiforo and Dembia), the Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture (Ndele, Akoursoulbak Zobossinda, Koundji), Haute-Kotto (Sam-Ouandja and Bria) and the Ouaka prefecture (Bambari and Ippy), the government (CNR), along with the local authorities have deployed to ensure the pre-registration and documentation of the new arrivals.

The number of Sudanese refugees crossing from Sudan into the CAR has continued to rise in the town of Ndele and the villages on the Ngarba axis (Akroussoulback, Kundji and Zobossinda) in the Bamingui Bangoran region. The National Commission for Refugees and UNHCR carried out a biometric enrolment of 2,065 individuals in Ndele and surrounding villages. As part of the protection response, UNHCR in collaboration with CNR organized the distribution of NFI, shelter and dignity kits to Sudanese refugees who have newly arrived in the area following their registration. 146 households of 1,893 people received shelter and relief items, and 27 women received dignity kits.

### Protection monitoring

UNHCR partner INTERSOS conducted 6 monitoring visits, including 3 in the host community of Birao and 3 in Korsi. These visits enabled the management of GBV cases, updated people with specific needs lists, and identified and documented protection incidents. A total of 70 protection incidents were identified this week, including 45 cases of violation of property rights and cases of physical violation. In response, INTERSOS referred rape cases to Birao Hospital for medical treatment within 72 hours and follow-up. In addition, psychosocial support was provided by case managers to survivors of GBV.

A group awareness-raising session was held at the Korsi site on fire prevention to minimize the risk of fire during the dry season. This awareness-raising session reached 134 people, including 29 men, 38 women, 24 boys and 43 girls.

### Prevention against gender-based violence (GBV)

One discussion group session on peaceful coexistence between women and girls was held in the women's safe space (the Ma Mbi Si) in Korsi, managed by INTERSOS. The sessions reached 134 participants, including 81 women and 53 men.

A group discussion session was also held in the agricultural space of the "Ma Mbi Si" to raise awareness among the group about the importance of using agricultural activities to create opportunities for meetings, exchanges, and sharing experiences related to their daily lives.

Finally, UNFPA, through its partner NGO Olivier Homme de Galilée, carried out awareness-raising sessions for 157 people, including 128 refugee participants. During the week, a total of 21 people, including 17 refugees, took part in individual psychosocial support sessions. The case management team also managed cases of GBV and referred them to the specialized care service.

### Child Protection

Classes continue in Birao's public schools, with 686 refugee children enrolled at the Nguerendomo and Djoubkia schools. Since January, refugee enrolment in formal schools has tripled, and the gross enrolment rate rose from 31 per cent in December to 39 per cent in April.

This week, 63 more children were registered at the Espace Ami des Enfants (EAE) on the Korsi site, an increase of 82 per cent from last week. A total of 103 children (44 girls and 59 boys) benefited from the activities. This increase is due to the greater involvement of community relays in awareness-raising sessions at the community level.

Refresher training for Community Relais and Community Focal Points on the identification and referencing of mental health pathologies in schools and EAE. This briefing was facilitated by PSAs and community mobilizers under the supervision of the psychologist. The aim was to promote the psychosocial support mechanism in the community and facilitate referrals. The team of psychosocial agents identified and referred 5 refugee students, including 1 boy and 4 girls, for psychological care by the INTERSOS psychologist.

11 mass awareness-raising sessions were held at the Korsi site, in community schools and at the EAE space. A total of 1,765 people were reached, including 330 men, 430 women, 465 boys and 540 girls. This increase is due to the involvement of community relays in awareness-raising sessions at the community level. The themes chosen for these various awareness-raising sessions revolve around the return of pupils to school after the Easter break and mental health in the school environment.

Construction of 18 latrines, two principals' offices, six classrooms and an administrative building for the Vakaga School Inspectorate is ongoing.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Korsi, hygiene and sanitation conditions have continued to deteriorate due to the continued increase of the population, overwhelming WASH facilities. The total number of usable latrines and showers on settlement remains at 74, giving a ratio of 155 people per latrine and water supply ratio has remained below 12.6 liters per person daily for the last several weeks, highlighting the ongoing challenges in meeting the population's basic needs.

Two joint missions led by UNICEF and UNHCR to the operations area focused on Emergency Child Protection and bolstering WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services.

### Food security

A total of 1,003 digital ration cards were distributed to refugees by WFP to facilitate monthly dry food distribution.

NOURRIR distributed 6,649 hot meals provided by WFP and 5,683 breakfasts provided by UNHCR.

### Health and Nutrition

NOURRIR and IMC completed 585 medical consultations at the Korsi health center, benefitting 79 host community members and 506 Sudanese refugees.

The medical team carried out mass nutritional screening, which revealed a total of 249 cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in children aged 6 to 59 months. In 2024, the team has completed the treatment of 665 children for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 54 children for severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

## 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 15 May, the funding for the CAR remains some USD 3.7 million or **8%** of the requirements.

### UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – January - December 2024

- UNHCR's total financial requirement for the 2024 [Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal](#) – in Sudan and neighboring countries – amounts to **USD 988.1 million**. As of 8 May, the total available funding for the appeal is **14%** 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 Global Focus Sudan Operation page](#)
- [UNHCR Sudan Emergency website](#)

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