

Central African Republic (CAR) – SUDAN SITUATION

16 – 22 May 2024



A UNHCR staff in CAR hands a kit of core relief items to a Sudanese refugee during a distribution to newly arrived Sudanese in Ippy. ©UNHCR CAR

Highlights

- On 13 and 17 May, the [Secretary-General](#) and [UN Human Rights Chief](#) have expressed grave concern on the outbreak of fighting in El Fasher, the reports of the use of heavy weaponry in densely populated areas, civilian casualties, significant displacement and the destruction of civilian infrastructure.
- On 21 May during the annual debate on the Protection of Civilians, the [Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide](#) briefed the Security Council on Sudan that the situation bears all marks of the risk of genocide with civilian populations targeted based on identity. Recent reported attacks in villages outside El Fasher do not appear to have military objectives other than to cause displacement and fear. Reports indicate that these attacks have been characterized by indiscriminate violence, including sexual violence against women and girls, targeting of young men and boys, looting, razing of structures, rustling of livestock and crop destruction.
- On 23 May, UNHCR's [High Commissioner](#) called for an end to the deliberate violence on civilians in El Fasher. He emphasized the need to respect their right to seek safety and the need for an immediate ceasefire.
- This week, efforts have been made to improve hygiene conditions in Korsi, which have deteriorated in the last weeks due to the inability to meet increasing needs. 57 new emergency latrines and 25 emergency showers have been constructed, increasing the number of WASH infrastructures in Korsi.
- UNHCR and partners have conducted a series of meetings with refugee leaders to discuss food distribution in preparation for WFP's next general food distribution and to identify 120 people who will benefit from semi-durable shelters.

Security and Operational context

The security situation in Vakaga and other prefectures hosting Sudanese refugees remains concerning and volatile due to the presence and activities of non-state armed groups in various localities. The ongoing security challenges and increasing humanitarian needs in Korsi and other refugee-hosting areas such as Ndélé, Ippy, or Rafaï make the situation complex. Efforts continue to address the needs of the refugee population, focusing on providing shelter, core relief items, food, water, sanitation, healthcare, education, and protection.

Population Movements and Registration

This week, 168 new arrivals (57 families) were registered, bringing the number of refugees at Korsi to 12,416 (5,476 families). UNHCR biometrically registered all new arrivals. The refugee population in Korsi remains 52 per cent women, 56 per cent children, and 44 per cent adults.

Since the beginning of the year, 8,650 newly arrived Sudanese refugees (3,843 households) have been registered in Korsi.

As of 20 May, some 30,806 forcibly displaced people from Sudan have arrived in CAR since April 2023, including 24,648 Sudanese refugees and 6,158 Central African returnees (former CAR refugees in Sudan). A total of 16,071 (6,398 households) Sudanese refugees have been biometrically registered and live in 13 localities, mostly in hard-to-reach locations outside Vakaga prefecture and needing protection and assistance.

Two registration teams are currently conducting enrollment of an estimated 3,500 Sudanese refugees in Bria and Sam Ouandja (Haute Kotto prefecture), Ippy in Ouaka prefecture and Mboki in Haut-Mbomou prefecture.

Protection

Reception and registration

The Central African Republic (CAR) has continued to keep its borders open to allow access to refugees and asylum seekers. 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 via the National Refugee Commission (Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés -CNR), along with the local authorities have deployed their teams 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 CNR and UNHCR carried out a biometric enrolment of 2,065 individuals in Ndele and surrounding villages between 12 and 26 April.

As part of the protection response, UNHCR, in collaboration with CNR, organized the distribution of core relief items, shelter, and dignity kits to Sudanese refugees who had recently arrived in the area following their registration. 146 households of 1,893 people received shelter and core relief items, and 27 women received dignity kits.

Protection monitoring

During the reporting period, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS conducted five monitoring visits, including one to the host community of Birao and four to Korsi. These visits enabled the provision of support to gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, the update of the lists of people with specific needs, and the identification and documentation of protection incidents. A total of 89 protection incidents were identified and documented this week, including violations of freedom, property rights, physical integrity, and cases of gender-based violence. In response, INTERSOS made referrals of cases for medical care and psychological support, with follow-ups conducted for GBV survivors.

Prevention against gender-based violence (GBV)

Individual and group therapy sessions were held in Korsi this week for people with specific needs, such as female heads of household, unaccompanied or separated children, the elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, and women at the "Ma Mbi Si" agricultural safe space. 2

These sessions were attended by 576 people and covered topics such as the referral pathway in place, the services available in Korsi, hygiene, child nutrition to prevent malnutrition, and the prevention of GBV. In addition, 26 new people with special needs were recorded this week in Birao and Am Dafock.

Education

Efforts to increase refugee enrollment in formal schools and support informal education programs continue. This week, UNHCR's education partner, NOURRIR, collected data to update the May enrolment figures for Sudanese children in schools in Birao. The data shows that between December and April 2024, refugee enrolment in formal schools increased from just 230 to close to 700, increasing the gross enrolment rate to 39 per cent in April 2024 compared to 31 per cent in December 2023.

Training and support for community members to provide psychosocial assistance and initiatives to support girls' education were also conducted. This week, the Parents' Associations (Association des Parents d'élèves) facilitated a training session on children's rights and the community stress management mechanism for community relays and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) focal points in Korsi. The aim was to promote the psychosocial support mechanism in the community and facilitate referrals. The training sessions were supported by trained psychologists.

The education partner continued its visits to refugee schools to discuss with directors and teachers the identification of girls who will benefit from menstrual hygiene kits. The goal was to increase the retention of girls in school during their menstrual periods.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Korsi, hygiene and sanitation conditions have continued to deteriorate due to the increased population, which overwhelms WASH facilities. The total number of usable latrines and showers on site was 74, giving a ratio of 155 people per latrine, compared with the minimum sphere standard of 20 people per latrine. This week, efforts were made to improve hygiene conditions by constructing 57 new emergency latrines and 25 emergency showers, and additional efforts were made to increase water provision and hygiene promotion activities.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

This week, 57 new emergency shelters were constructed as part of the extension of Korsi and allocated to newly arrived families to accommodate the growing refugee population.

This week, UNHCR and partners distributed core relief items to 532 refugees (216 families) who arrived in Korsi between 25 March and 19 April. In addition, UNHCR distributed core relief items to 334 Sudanese refugees (99 families) in Ippy. Finally, IOM distributed 426 core relief items kits to newly arrived refugees in Korsi. The kits comprise mats, mosquito nets, a kitchen set, a Jerrican, a solar flashlight, a blanket, clothes, and buckets.

Food security

This week in Korsi, WFP distributed 85 ration cards granting access to food assistance to newly arrived refugees. In addition, two awareness-raising and planning meetings were held with refugee leaders in preparation for the launch of the next general food distribution for May and June.

NOURRIR distributed 7,138 hot meals this week to new arrivals in Korsi.

Health and Nutrition

This week, NOURRIR and IMC completed 635 medical consultations at the Korsi health center, focusing on common health issues and maternal healthcare. The consultations benefitted 61 host community members and 574 Sudanese refugees living in Korsi. Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 14,262 medical consultations have been carried out in Korsi.

The medical team conducted mass nutritional screening of children and pregnant and lactating women. Cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) were recorded, affecting 369 children aged 06 to 59 months, 217 pregnant women, and 319 lactating women. Eight cases were identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Since January 2024, 989 children suffering from MAM and 62 children suffering from SAM have received care.

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 22 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](#)

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 | Banqui | Facebook](#)