

# Sudan

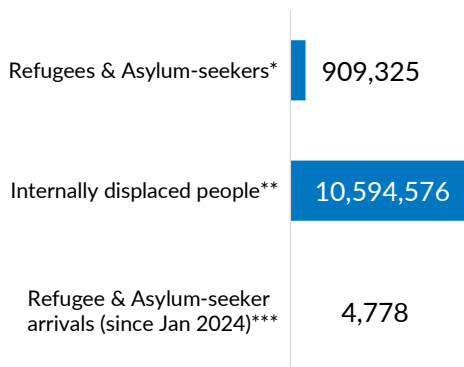
January – June 2024

The conflict in Sudan entered its second year in April. End-June, close to **10.5M** people are internally displaced of which **7.7M** have been internally displaced, often multiple times, since April 2023.

More than half the population, nearly **26 million people**, face acute food insecurity and many areas in Sudan are at risk of famine which will affect forcibly displaced and hosting communities.

In Sudan, UNHCR leads the protection, shelter/NFI, and CCCM clusters in the IDP response. The Commission of Refugees (COR) and UNHCR coordinate the inter-agency refugee response.

## FORCIBLY DISPLACED POPULATION



\* Source: UNHCR, ProGres June 2024

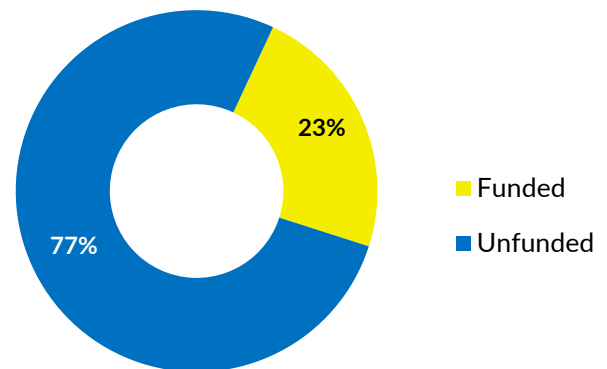
\*\* Source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, Sudan Mobility Overview 16 July 2024

\*\*\* Source: UNHCR (January - June 2024)

## FUNDING (AS OF 30 JUNE 2024)

**USD 424.0 million**

requested for the Sudan Operation in 2024



Sanna, a South Sudanese refugee and a health volunteer at the Alagaya refugee camp, White Nile State, measures a child during a community health visit. ©UNHCR/S. Otieno



## Operational Context

Throughout the first half of 2024, the security situation in Sudan was highly volatile, the conflict escalated and expanded into many areas such as Al Jazirah, North Darfur, Kordofan, Blue Nile, White Nile and Sennar States. This precarious security environment has led to new waves of displacement, civilian casualties, damage to public infrastructure and further disruption to essential services. In March 2024, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) sounded the alarm on heightened risks of food insecurity and acute malnutrition particularly in Khartoum, Al Jazirah, Darfur and Kordofan States. By June, the IPC had updated its acute food insecurity snapshot, warning of a risk of famine in five localities and nine areas where forcibly displaced people are located. In January and June 2024, the High Commissioner for Refugees visited Red Sea, Kassala and White Nile States, meeting senior officials and forcibly displaced people in each location.

While progress has been made to address the bureaucratic impediments limiting humanitarian access on the ground, some challenges persist, particularly to access hard-to-reach locations. These impediments have affected the timely implementation of activities, transport of supplies through crossline and cross-border mechanisms and personnel movements. During February and March 2024, the communication and mobile networks broke down countrywide, leading to challenges in maintaining contact with partners, community networks and staff. Though the communication networks have since been restored, intermittent black outs persist.

Following the repositioning of staff in White Nile State end-December 2023 due to insecurity, UNHCR started the phased return of staff in May 2024, setting up regular cross-border missions from Renk, South Sudan. Meanwhile, cross-border operations from Chad to Sudan resumed in January with two inter-agency missions to West and Central Darfur States. These were, however, suspended in February and following joint advocacy, inter-agency cross-border operations resumed in April resulting in the successful transport of relief items from Farchana, Chad into North Darfur, albeit only through one border crossing.

Despite the nearly **4,800 newly arriving refugees and asylum-seekers** to Sudan throughout the first half of 2024, the refugee and asylum-seeker population in the country decreased by 5 per cent from 961,000 at the start of the year. UNHCR estimates that close to **260,000 refugees and asylum-seekers have spontaneously moved** to other locations within the country, often multiple times as the conflict evolves. In the second quarter, UNHCR observed an increase in requests from refugees to support their return to countries of origin, albeit under adverse conditions. In coordination with the Commission of Refugees (COR), UNHCR is conducting intention surveys in refugee-hosting locations to better understand the factors influencing refugees' and asylum-seekers' decisions to return and to what extent UNHCR and others can support them by providing information, counselling and assistance.

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

UNHCR, along with its partners, conducts **protection monitoring** in forcibly displaced and hosting communities, identifying key protection concerns and collaborates with the authorities and specialised partner organisations to find solutions. In April and June respectively, UNHCR issued

an “*IDP Response Fact Sheet*” and the “*Quarterly Report on Internal Displacement Response – Sudan*” highlighting the latest achievements, challenges and opportunities of UNHCRs scaled up engagement in the response to the massive internal displacement. This was followed by the “*Protection Brief*” highlighting the protection environment in Sudan after one year of conflict. UNHCR is also spearheading the revision of the Sudan Humanitarian Country Team Protection Strategy.

In addition, **UNHCR has strengthened community-based approaches** by increasing engagement with community-based protection networks (CBPNs) and establishing multi-purpose community centres (MPCC). There are currently **22 MPCCs across Sudan**, with another ten centres being established in locations newly hosting forcibly displaced people. These centres serve as hubs for protection services, offering access to information, referrals to specialized services, and facilitating the identification of people with specific needs who require targeted assistance. They provide a venue to implement a range of activities in collaboration with partners, which include providing psychosocial support, legal counselling, and other services prioritized by community members.

**CBPNs are active across the country** and networks are being established in locations newly hosting forcibly displaced people. Network members are being capacitated to identify protection concerns and people with specific needs and make referrals, particularly in hard-to-reach locations. Over **225,000 people were reached by community-based protection networks** in the first six months of the year. Close to **1,000 refugee and asylum-seeker survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV)** received counselling, medical, legal and/or other life-saving assistance. In addition, **legal aid services** such as counselling and representation before courts have been provide to over **3,000 refugees and asylum-seekers** between January and June 2024.

Despite regular awareness raising and sensitization and information on GBV and available reporting mechanisms in IDP and refugee locations, GBV incidents are still underreported often for fear of stigmatization or retaliation. In refugee and asylum-seeker hosting areas, UNHCR undertakes best-interest determination procedure for unaccompanied or separated children. In the first six months of the year, **over 1,800 refugee children-at-risk** received individual support and child protection services.

UNHCR uses a variety of communication channels to enhance communication with forcibly displaced populations. In addition to feedback and response mechanisms which are in place in all refugee camps, the Help website for refugees and asylum-seekers is regularly updated. Also, WhatsApp channels and hotline lines are available to improve communication with communities especially in hard-to-reach areas. Between January and June 2024, over **26,000 people utilized communication channels** to receive information and counselling.



 **Registration and Documentation**

Registration is a critical protection tool which enables the early identification of people with specific needs and facilitates their referral to specialised services. Additionally, registration provides comprehensive population data needed for programme planning, including for shelter, food, water, health and sanitation facilities, cash-based assistance, and other forms of targeted assistance. Other activities linked to registration are updating family records, registering newborns, biometric enrolment and tracking spontaneous internal movements. By end-June 2024, **Sudan hosted over 909,000 refugees and asylum-seekers**, of which over **257,000 have self-relocated within** the country to safer areas and some **4,800 have newly arrived** in the country.



*Children play at the multi-purpose community centre in Ed Daein, East Darfur during psychosocial support sessions for children. ©UNHCR*

UNHCR and COR re-started the registration activities in the third quarter of 2023 after suspending registration in April 2023 at the start of the conflict. Between January and June 2024, **UNHCR and COR registered close to 32,000 refugees and asylum-seekers** across Sudan.

In Sudan, registration and issuing of identification documentation such as photo slips or ID cards constitute proof of legal identity and facilitate greater freedom of movement. It also enables refugees' and asylum-seekers' access to basic assistance and protection, including legal residency, and registration of civil events (particularly birth registration). End-June, UNHCR and COR had **provided documentation** (photo slip, ID card or household token) to nearly **37,000 refugees and asylum-seekers** which includes the 4,778 refugees and asylum-seekers, who have newly arrived, mostly from Eritrea and Ethiopia, and were registered. Since the start of the conflict in April 2023,

over 12,000 newly arrived refugees and asylum-seekers were registered in Gedaref, Kassala, Blue Nile and Kordofan states.

The conflict and associated emergency regulations enacted by the authorities since April 2023 have resulted in an increase in arrest and detention of foreign nationals, often those without valid documents or suspected of participation in the conflict. Refugees and asylum-seekers, who have lost or have been unable to replace their identification documents have also been affected. UNHCR together with COR have stepped up sensitization on the civilian character of asylum, rights and obligations of duty bearers with local public and security authorities and forcibly displaced people. Simultaneously, UNHCR has scaled up registration so refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily secondarily displaced and new arrivals, have valid documentation.

### **Refugee Status Determination**

The Government of Sudan leads the refugee status determination (RSD) process in the country. At the start of the conflict, all RSD activities in Sudan were suspended. RSD resumed in Kassala State in a phased approach during the latter half of 2023. From January to June 2024, close to 11,700 new RSD applications were recorded. This includes new asylum-seeker arrivals and people who had been living in Sudan but had not previously sought international protection and asylum before the conflict started in April 2023. Of this number, more than 1,150 people mostly of Eritrean nationality but also a few Ethiopians and Somalis were recognized as refugees. No RSD applications were rejected during this period.

By end-June 2024, there were an **estimated 43,000 asylum-seekers in Sudan**, of which some 20,000 were registered and pending RSD.

### **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways**

In 2024 so far, **158 refugees**, the majority Eritreans, but also Ethiopians, Somalis and Congolese, have **departed on resettlement** to Canada, Australia, the USA and Sweden. UNHCR collaborated with IOM and resettlement countries for medical screening and pre-departure arrangements.

Since January 2024, UNHCR has also provided **individual counselling** and updates on resettlement case status to over **2,400 refugees** in Kassala and Gedaref States. By end-June 2024, close to 2,300 refugees' cases mostly from Eritrea, which had been submitted before April 2023, were pending final decisions from resettlement countries. In addition, 243 refugees accepted on resettlement, mostly Eritreans and a few Ethiopians, were awaiting departure.

Since the start of the conflict, resettlement case submissions from Sudan have been put on hold. Nevertheless, from January to June, UNHCR recommended seven urgent or emergency cases comprising 15 refugees for resettlement. Of this number, two cases comprising seven refugees had been accepted by June 2024.

UNHCR also supported 402 people access complementary pathways to third countries during the same period. UNHCR Sudan advocated on behalf of 128 people who were to be reunited with their families for the timely processing and issuing of travel documents and supported another 270 refugees, who had been registered in Sudan but fled the conflict to neighbouring countries, to finalise their family reunification or private sponsorship processes. In addition, three refugees departed Sudan on private sponsorship or family reunification pathways from January to June 2024.



## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Camp Coordination and Camp Management activities coordinate and facilitate the efficient, effective and predictable delivery of protection and services at community level, ensure that the rights of IDPs and other affected people are protected, and advocate for durable solutions.

Between January and June 2024, **UNHCR and its partners conducted assessments in more than 50 gathering sites** in Gedaref and Northern States accommodating over 2,550 internally displaced households comprising nearly 15,300 people. Site assessments cover all the critical sectors identifying gaps in services and this information is shared with relevant clusters for further coordination of assistance provision.

UNHCR and partners also trained some 100 partner staff, local authorities, and IDPs on site management to familiarize them with the available data collection tools and harmonise the information gathered across Sudan in line with CCCM Cluster guidance.



## CASH ASSISTANCE

Through cash-based interventions, UNHCR supports vulnerable internally displaced and refugee households prioritize and independently meet their immediate basic needs such as food and shelter. Since the beginning of the year, over **USD 1 million has been disbursed**, reaching 1,880 refugees and asylum-seekers and 24,836 IDPs with multi-purpose cash grants, cash for shelter, and cash for protection in many states across Sudan. The assistance is disbursed as cash-in-hand by UNHCR's contracted financial service provider, Blue Nile Mashreg Bank. Alternate cash delivery mechanisms are being explored such as mobile banking, bank transfer and engagement of partners, local vendors and the *hawala* system in the upcoming planned distributions in the second half of 2024.



## EDUCATION

The conflict in Sudan resulted in a year of disrupted learning for students across the country. Despite the challenges to reopen government and private schools across Sudan, **schools serving refugee children in four states (White Nile, Kassala, Gedaref and Blue Nile States)** continued to provide uninterrupted education during the first half of the year. Unfortunately, refugee schools established before the conflict in some other states were still closed by end-June (South Kordofan, West Kordofan, North Darfur, East Darfur, South Darfur, Central Darfur). As of June 2024, more than **42,000 refugee students were enrolled in primary and secondary** schools with all secondary school students located only in White Nile.

UNHCR and partners provide formal and non-formal education for refugee children in camps and settlements in coordination with the Ministry of Education. The schools follow the national curriculum and the Sudanese academic calendar. Refugee students receive formal education in Blue Nile and White Nile states and non-formal education in Gedaref.

In Sudan, **UNHCR also supports refugees with access to tertiary education** through the DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship programme and the urban tertiary education programme (URTEP). The DAFI programme offers qualified refugee and returnee students the possibility to earn an undergraduate degree in their country of asylum or home country. In 2023, there were 240 DAFI sponsored students across the country. By end-



June, **79 DAFI sponsored students resumed their studies** one year after the conflict started. Another 114 DAFI students are known to have crossed borders to neighbouring countries as a result of the conflict. UNHCR and partners are still trying to locate the remaining 47 students. Under **URTEP, 79 students out of 176 were confirmed** to still be in-country and will be supported with cash assistance to resume their education in the latter half of 2024. The others have either left Sudan or have not yet been contactable.



*Distribution of core relief items to IDP families affected by the conflict in Korno, North Darfur State.*  
©UNHCR



## SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

UNHCR and its partners distribute standard core relief items, such as blankets, plastic sheets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and solar lamps and other non-standard items to vulnerable forcibly displaced and host community members.

Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR has distributed **non-food items to over 56,000 refugee, IDP and vulnerable host community households** comprising over 281,000 people in 11 out of 18 states in Sudan. In addition to core relief items, **17,140 refugee and close to 19,000 IDP households received clothing items** in Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala and White Nile States. Non-food item distributions are done by implementing partners in coordination with local authorities, operational partners, and forcibly displaced people.

Also since the start of the year, over **5,500 refugee and IDP households** comprising more than 27,000 people received shelter assistance like emergency shelter kits (plastic sheets, wooden poles and tools) or family tents in Blue Nile, Gedaref, Red Sea and White Nile States.



*Muna and her family fled from Khartoum to Gedaref where they received shelter assistance from UNHCR to improve her living conditions. ©UNHCR/A. Gonzales*



## HEALTH

Since the beginning of the year, close to 550,000 outpatient consultations took place in primary health care facilities in refugee camps and settlements in Blue Nile, Darfur, Gedaref, Kassala, Kordofan and White Nile States. Though health facilities are in refugee camps, they are accessed by internally displaced people and hosting communities living in the surrounding areas. It is estimated **some 20 per cent of all outpatient consultations are for IDPs and host communities**. These facilities are supported by UNHCR and managed by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and other health partners. Of all consultations, close to **1,700 patients were referred** to secondary and tertiary medical health care facilities for further treatment. The medical conditions most frequently treated were malaria, upper and lower respiratory infections, and skin infections.

UNHCR also supported the MoH and partners in surveillance, community engagement and health messaging in anticipation of further disease outbreaks such as cholera, dengue fever, and other communicable or water-borne diseases, expected from the annual rainy season. To address the shortage of medicines and supplies particularly in health care facilities in hard-to-reach areas, UNHCR and its partners are identifying alternative transport routes for both crossline and cross-border operations for more timely delivery of critical medicines.

In addition to primary health care services, more than **31,400 refugee women accessed reproductive health services** like delivery, antenatal and postnatal care and family planning services. Approximately 6,350 refugees received mental health consultation services, of which over 1,100 people were newly enrolled since the beginning of the year.





## WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION

UNHCR and its partners provide water, hygiene and sanitation services in refugee camps in White Nile, Gedaref, West Kordofan, South Kordofan, Kassala and Blue Nile States reaching an average of **690,000 people from the refugee and hosting communities**. The average daily **provision of water** stands at approximately **16.5 litres per person per day**, which is slightly above the emergency standards but still below overall minimum standards. This can be attributed to the larger number of hosting and internally displaced community members accessing water at refugee camps since the outbreak of the conflict. WASH partners in refugee camps ensure that water is regularly chlorinated and treated to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases.

**Sanitation services** including desludging latrines and solid waste collection and disposal benefited **344,000 refugees and asylum-seekers** in Kassala, Gedaref, White Nile and Blue Nile States in the first six months. Refugee volunteers conducted awareness campaigns on preventing diseases like diarrhoea and malaria, while CBPNs and hygiene committees organized cleaning campaigns in refugee camps to address waste accumulation and vector breeding sites to reduce public health risks. Additional activities included solid waste management and the construction of shared family latrines to improve latrine coverage in camps. These **hygiene promotion activities** reached over **410,300 refugees and asylum-seekers** in Kassala, East Darfur, Gedaref, White Nile, and Blue Nile States. In addition, over 28,000 refugee women and girls of reproductive age received personal hygiene kits in Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala and White Nile States.



## LIVELIHOODS AND SELF-RELIANCE

Despite the ongoing emergency in Sudan, UNHCR and its partners reached **381 refugees and asylum-seekers and 121 IDPs with interventions on livelihoods and economic inclusion** in Gedaref, Kassala, White Nile and Red Sea States. Self-reliance activities include support to access skilled employment, providing business entrepreneurship training and agricultural inputs like seeds to increase production. In line with its 'solutions from the start' approach, UNHCR engaged other partners like UNDP, FAO, ILO and the African Development Bank to plan self-reliance programmes which enable refugees' and asylum-seekers' inclusion supporting their self-reliance and reducing the heavy dependence on humanitarian aid.

## TRI-CLUSTER ACHIEVEMENTS

In Sudan, under the inter-agency framework for IDP responses, UNHCR leads three clusters – Protection, Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI) and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM).

UNHCR leads the **Protection Cluster** together with the Danish Refugee Council. Cluster partners **reached close to 130,000 IDPs, host community and others** in 14 out of 18 states of Sudan between January and June 2024. The Cluster partners provide legal aid assistance, psychosocial support, undertake protection monitoring, make referrals for specialized services or cash assistance and conduct awareness raising campaigns on protection issues. The Cluster issued several **documents** such as **Protection of Civilians Flash Updates and Protection Advocacy Notes** reporting on and analysing protection impacts of the conflict mainly in the Darfur and Kordofan regions. It also issued Hotspot Maps for early warning and preparedness. In addition, the Cluster, in collaboration with its Areas of Responsibility, PSEA Network, and the Gender Advisor to the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, developed a comprehensive roll-out package for protection mainstreaming to guide other clusters, focusing on accountability to affected

populations, child protection, GBV risk mitigation, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and incorporating a gender lens in humanitarian action. To assist other clusters in their implementation, the Protection Cluster also **established a Protection Mainstreaming Task Team** through which further guidance such as protection mainstreaming tip sheets and practical guides to integrate protection principles across various sectors were issued.



*Salam (right) and other refugee community volunteers help to ensure the orderly distribution of soap to refugees in Um Rakuba refugee camp, Gedaref State. © UNHCR/M. Alhussein*

UNHCR also leads the **Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster** with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency. From **January to June 2024, the Cluster reached over 479,000 IDPs**, returnees and vulnerable residents (95,000 households) with various forms of essential shelter and NFI items such as tents, blankets, and cooking utensils aimed at providing immediate protection and relief to displaced families. Of which, about half were reached since April 2024 **under the Famine Prevention Plan**. The response was through crossline from within Sudan and cross-border operations from Chad. Interventions were provided by 16 partners in 16 states. In addition, the Cluster monitors in-country stock and pipelines and developed a common proposal to respond to IDP evictions from schools. There are plans to reach more conflict-affected populations through cross-border operations from South Sudan.

The **Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster** is co-led by UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council. Since the beginning of 2024, Cluster partners have **reached over 83,000 households** of approximately 422,800 individuals. The Cluster, comprising seven partners at national and sub-national level, enables the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection services to displaced populations in sites and site-like settings in Sudan through information and data gathering, site mapping and site assessments. The Cluster adopted uniform assessment tools for qualitative and quantitative assessments and advocated for close collaboration with IOM DTM for data corroboration at the site-level. In addition, a minimum site management package was developed in May to guide programme implementation by Cluster partners.

As pressures mounted for the reopening of schools, including those hosting IDPs, the Clusters worked closely with other sectors and partners in the application of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) Common Position on Relocation and Alternative Solutions to Gathering Sites developed by the tri-cluster and adopted by the ICCG in November 2023.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As of June 2024

**Special thanks to our donors including major donors of unearmarked contributions to UNHCR until June 2024:**

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