

Central African Republic (CAR) – SUDAN SITUATION

20 – 26 October 2024



Sudanese refugees' biometric registration in Rafai – ©UNHCR Sylvano Mombeang

Highlights

- The security situation in Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute Kotto, and Ouaka prefectures remains tense, with non-state armed groups active in these areas. This ongoing instability continues to affect humanitarian access and the safety of refugees and host communities.
- This week, 112 new Sudanese refugees (49 households) arrived in Korsi, Birao, reflecting similar arrival patterns from previous weeks. The new arrivals are in urgent need of emergency shelter, food, and core relief items. UNHCR distributed core relief items—such as sleeping mats, blankets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, soap, and jerrycans—to 188 Sudanese refugees (87 households). Additionally, WFP provided a total of 1.9 tonnes of dry food rations. Currently, Korsi hosts 14,931 refugees (6,448 households), with children making up 57 per cent of the population.
- Heavy rains in Ndélé have caused extensive damage, impacting 990 individuals (173 households), including 51 households of Sudanese refugees. Many homes, particularly in areas housing both refugees and IDPs, were destroyed by the floods, exacerbating the community's vulnerability.
- On 22 October, armed elements carried out a raid near Kartoua village, along the Ngarba road in Bamingui-Bangoran, detaining and robbing traders. Growing insecurity along the Ngarba axis has led to further displacement; the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) registered 20 Sudanese refugees from 6 households who fled from Zobossinda, Koundji, and Akroussoulbak to Ndélé. These refugees now face limited access to essential services and have minimal livelihood support.

Population Movements and Registration

Last week, the CNR and UNHCR initiated the biometric registration of Sudanese refugees in Rafai, a city in southern CAR near the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) border. This registration aims to collect data on the refugees, assess their specific needs, and facilitate their access to essential services.

Protection

The resumption of hostilities in Sudan has led to additional waves of refugees entering neighboring countries, including CAR. However, rising water levels on the Am Dafock-Birao route have slowed new arrivals, as the flooding makes the movement of people and goods challenging.

This week, 20 protection monitoring visits were conducted, including 15 to Korsi and 5 to the safe area around Birao Hospital within host communities. These visits allowed UNHCR's partner, INTERSOS, to gather information on the security situation, provide psychosocial support to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in Korsi's safe space, identify people with special needs, monitor the protection environment, assist WFP with cash distributions to refugees, conduct surveys among new arrivals, and support community outreach activities through trained local relays.

INTEROS documented 46 protection incidents in Vakaga prefecture this week, slightly up from 35 the previous week. Most cases involved property rights violations, followed by incidents of GBV and restrictions on freedom of movement and physical integrity. Hotspots included Sikikedé, Am-Dafock, and Gordil. Local men, particularly those traveling between major towns, remain especially vulnerable to banditry and attacks by non-state armed groups.

From 21 to 23 October, three awareness-raising sessions were held in Korsi as part of the Programme d'Accompagnement des Populations (PAP). These sessions focused on issues like promoting education for young girls and managing community complaints. The aim was to encourage families to enroll young girls for the new school year and to inform the community about their rights and responsibilities in humanitarian services. A total of 282 people attended these sessions.

Prevention against gender-based violence (GBV)

From 14 to 22 October, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS held 13 GBV prevention activities in Korsi, reaching a total of 257 people. These activities included therapy sessions for women and girls on issues like denial of resources and rape, individual counseling for GBV survivors, group therapy on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and guidance on using the Hotline and other emergency communication channels. Group discussions focused on topics relevant to children, including schooling, and a dedicated focus group on child protection.

During the reporting week, several GBV cases were reported in Korsi, showing a slight decrease from the previous week, although underreporting remains a significant issue. Most incidents involved male perpetrators, often from non-state armed groups. INTERSOS provided psychosocial support, conducted seven listening sessions, and referred two cases of physical assault for further assistance. Additionally, 40 dignity kits were distributed, and follow-ups with GBV survivors showed signs of recovery, with some survivors ready to close their cases.

Child protection

At the child-friendly space in Korsi, 460 Sudanese children, including 376 new arrivals, participated in various activities this week. These activities included group therapy, leisure activities like dancing and painting, sports such as football, handball, running, and skipping, as well as learning sessions and life skills training in areas such as literacy, health awareness, and hygiene. The number of new children attending these sessions increased by 57 compared to last week, reflecting the ongoing influx of refugees in the area.

Water, Shelter, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

This week, the number of emergency latrines in Korsi has increased to 237, improving the ratio to 62 people per latrine, up from 65 last week. However, this is still below the recommended standard of 20 people per latrine. The number of emergency showers remains at 251, with a ratio of 58 people per shower. The daily drinking water supply has dropped from 130,000 to 110,000 liters due to a borehole breakdown. With 14,819 people in Korsi, this equates to an average of 7.5 liters per person per day, which is below the Sphere standard of 20 liters.

UNHCR's partner NOURRIR, together with community members, is continuing sanitation and hygiene promotion efforts in Korsi. The team cleaned washing areas, treated water with chlorine, and conducted hygiene awareness sessions that reached 6,416 people. Topics covered in these sessions included removing donkey excrement, conserving water properly, using ashes in latrines to reduce odors, and draining stagnant water to help prevent malaria.

In Birao, the construction of 220 semi-durable shelters is underway. So far, 43 shelters have been started, with seven fully completed and 36 still under construction. This project aims to provide safer and more resilient housing options for the displaced population in the area.

Education

During the reporting week, four awareness-raising sessions focused on the importance of education and the upcoming school year were held in Korsi and surrounding host communities, reaching 522 people. Since the beginning of the year, a total of 16,459 people has participated in these educational awareness sessions, reinforcing the value of schooling and encouraging enrollment in the new academic term.

Health and Nutrition

During the reporting week, the medical team from NOURRIR and International Medical Corps (IMC), under the supervision of WHO and the Vakaga Health District, conducted 476 consultations in Korsi. Of these, 425 (89.3 per cent) were for refugees, including 88 newly arrived individuals, and 51 (10.7 per cent) for members of the host community. Young children (ages 0-59 months) made up about 35 per cent of all cases. Malaria was the most common illness, with 253 cases (53.2 per cent), followed by acute respiratory infections (62 cases, 13 per cent) and intestinal parasitosis (20 cases, 4.2 per cent). All patients received outpatient treatment. To date, a total of 31,604 consultations have been conducted in 2024, with 10 per cent involving host community members.

From 5 to 11 October, 27 Sudanese women received antenatal consultations, bringing the annual total to 1,196. Additionally, seven postnatal consultations were conducted, totaling 246 for the year. Gynecological consultations reached 34 this week, raising the annual count to 1,613, while eight women received family planning services, totaling 239 in 2024. One baby was delivered this week, adding to the 125 deliveries and 128 newborns recorded so far this year.

Eleven patients were referred from Korsi to Birao District Hospital this week for specialized care, increasing the cumulative referrals to 634 in 2024.

This week, two cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and one case of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were identified among children aged 6 to 59 months. In 2024, a total of 1,226 children have been treated for MAM, 169 for SAM, and 844 cases have involved malnutrition prevention efforts. In total, 223 children under five have received treatment for malnutrition this year.

This week, nine pregnant women received tetanus vaccinations, and ten children received multi-antigen vaccines, including two for measles. Since the start of 2024, 552 children have been vaccinated with multiple antigens, including 190 for measles, and 472 pregnant women have received a tetanus vaccine as part of routine immunization efforts.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) – January – December 2024

- On 07 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 26 October, the total funding for the CAR remained at some USD 11.4 million or **25%** 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 26 October, the total available funding for the appeal is **29%** 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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