

Central African Republic (CAR) – SUDAN SITUATION

15 – 21 December 2024



A Sudanese refugee family living in their semi-durable shelter in Korsi, Birao. ©UNHCR/Ying HU

Highlights

- In Sudanese refugee-hosting areas including Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute Kotto, Ouaka, Mbomou and Haute Mbomou, the security situation was calm in general due to deterrent patrols by security forces in the city and along key routes such as Ippy, Aigbando, Ouadda, and Irrabanda. However, the situation remains uncertain and unpredictable in many regions due to the presence of activists and incursions by armed elements linked to rebel groups. Meanwhile, the security situation in Vakaga prefecture remains concerning, with ongoing movements of armed elements from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Popular Front for the Renaissance of the Central African Republic (FPRC) along the Ildriss-Tissi Fongoro axis.
- A total of 621 new refugees, representing 255 households, arrived this week in Korsi, Birao (Vakaga Prefecture). Biometric registration was completed for 514 individuals from 218 households, accounting for 83 per cent of the new arrivals, and will continue next week. In total, 16,551 refugees from 7,063 households are registered in Korsi. Among them, 8,896 are women and girls (54 per cent) and 7,655 are men and boys (46 per cent). Children make up 57 per cent of the population (9,475), while adults total 7,076, including 516 elderly individuals (7 per cent).
- Regarding other prefectures, UNHCR partner, CNR, reported 364 new arrivals, comprising 105 households, in the town of Sam-Ouandja from Sudan. As for the biometric registration of Sudanese refugees in Sam-Ouandja, Bria, and Ippy, a total of 2,974 refugees were registered across 976 households, including 2,407 individuals from 751 households in Ouandja-Kotto, 278 individuals from 95 households in Bria, and 297 individuals from 133 households in Ippy.
- Kits of non-food items (NFIs) and dry food rations were distributed to 90 households, comprising 268 individuals. In total, 2.773 tons of dry food, 90 blankets, 90 mats, 133 mosquito nets, kitchen sets, jerrycans, buckets, and flashlights were distributed. This distribution was carried out for the new arrivals from December 11-13, 2024, in the Korsi area, achieving a 100 per cent coverage rate.

- As part of the MasterCard Foundation project, an official launch ceremony was held for the French language learning program aimed at facilitating the potential integration of refugees into the formal education system at the secondary and high school levels. A total of 289 students registered during the first week of classes. Additionally, as part of the Education Cannot Wait project, dignity kits were distributed to 138 female students this week, bringing the total number of kits distributed since the beginning of the school year to 300.

Population Movements and Registration

During the reporting period, the total number of individuals registered in the Korsi neighborhood in Birao reached 16,551 persons from 7,063 households. Among them, 9,475 are children (57 per cent) and 7,076 are adults (43 per cent) including 516 elderly individuals (7 per cent).

A total of 621 new refugees arrived in Birao, of whom 514 individuals (218 households) have already been registered. Some 215 family composition cards were distributed. The average weekly arrival rate in December is 251 individuals, marking an increase compared to the average of 239 arrivals per week in November, 63 per week in October, 53 per week in September and 27 new arrivals per week in August.

Regarding other prefectures, UNHCR's partner the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) reported 364 new arrivals from Sudan, comprising 105 households, in the town of Sam-Ouandja (Haute Kotto). As for the biometric registration of Sudanese refugees in Sam-Ouandja, Bria (Haute Kotto) and Ippy (Ouaka prefecture), a total of 2,974 refugees were registered across 976 households including 2,407 individuals from 751 households in Ouandja-Kotto, 278 individuals from 95 households in Bria and 297 individuals from 133 households in Ippy.

Protection

In Birao, Vakaga, the identification of individuals with specific needs was completed and blankets were distributed to them by MERCY CORPS to help protect them during the cold weather. UNHCR and its partners monitored refugees detained at the Gendarmerie and Police in Birao to assess their detention conditions.

During the reporting week, 65 protection incidents (all involving residents) were reported and documented in Haute-Kotto prefecture. These incidents include 49 violations of property rights, 12 violations of the right to freedom of movement, 3 violations of physical integrity and gender-based sexual violence cases.

In Ouaka, the field team, through community structures, recorded 90 protection incidents across various localities. These incidents are categorized as follows: 47 violations of property rights, 18 violations of the right to freedom, cases of GBV and eight violations of the right to life and physical integrity.

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

UNHCR, in collaboration with its partner INTERSOS, conducted a sensitization session for female leaders on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) to enhance their knowledge and enable them to plan awareness-raising activities with the support provided by UNHCR.

During the reporting week, UNHCR organized two meetings with the refugee women's association, "YA RAHAMANE," to prepare to receive funds to carry out activities aimed at preventing GBV as well as income-generating activities.

INTEROS reported 37 protection incidents in Vakaga prefecture, a slight increase from the 36 incidents reported in the previous week. The primary protection incidents continue to be property rights violations and GVB. The most affected localities were Birao, Am Dafock, and Korsi. These incidents are often attributed to opportunistic bandits, highlighting the urgent need for enhanced protection measures for women and girls. Non-state armed groups remain the primary perpetrators.

In addition, INTERSOS conducted three awareness-raising sessions on the feedback/complaint management mechanism at the information centres in Korsi. These sessions aimed to strengthen communication, address refugee concerns and encourage greater participation of refugees in humanitarian activities. A total of 411 people participated in these sessions.

Education

During the reporting period, no new registrations were recorded in primary education under the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) program. To date, 1,311 refugee students have enrolled at Nguerendomo School in Birao, representing a 40 per cent increase compared to the end of the 2023/24 school year and a fivefold increase compared to the previous school term.

In secondary education, a formal launch ceremony for a French language learning program, funded by the MasterCard Foundation (MCF), was held. The event was attended by key stakeholders including local authorities, refugee and host community leaders, and humanitarian partners such as OCHA, Finn Church Aid (FCA) and INTERSOS. In collaboration with FCA, UNHCR has engaged six qualified teachers and two focal points (one from the host community and one from the refugee community) to ensure smooth implementation. A total of 289 students registered in the first week, with registrations ongoing.

Regarding tertiary education, the screening, verification, preselection, and evaluation processes for 30 candidates under the new French language learning scholarship program, funded by the MasterCard Foundation, were completed. This initiative aims to enhance Sudanese refugees' access to higher education in CAR. The final list of scholarship recipients will be announced next week.

Regarding educational materials, a total of 1,053 kits were distributed as of 21 December with no additional school kits distributed during the reporting week under the ECW and MCF programs. However, the distribution of 350 school kits for secondary students is planned for the week after 21 December. 138 dignity kits were distributed to students from refugee and host communities this week to support girls' education and attendance, marking a total of 300 kits distributed since the school term began, funded by Education Cannot Wait.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

During the reporting week, 11 emergency latrines and 11 showers were constructed thus the cumulative figure for 2024 is 201 latrines and 136 showers. In Korsi, the number of latrines has increased to 261, slightly improving the ratio from 63 to 60 people per latrine. The ratio remains well above the recommended standard of 20 people per latrine. On the other hand, the number of emergency showers has reached 264, with a ratio of 57 people per shower.

The potable water supply remained insufficient during the reporting week, with 66,000 litres of water provided daily for 16,037 people, equating to just 5 litres per person, far below the minimum of 20 litres per person per day as recommended by Sphere standards. TGH has completed the construction of two metal water towers in Korsi, awaiting the installation of water tanks. Additionally, sanitation work continues, with 43 semi-durable latrines almost finished and 114 others under construction.

Hygiene teams maintained their efforts to improve public health including by conducting awareness sessions that reached 46 per cent of the population on topics such as the dangers of open defecation, maintaining water points and proper water storage. The construction of waste disposal pits has been completed and is now in use by the refugees, with four additional pits planned for 2024. Furthermore, the UNHCR's partner APADE has initiated the installation of a solar-powered borehole in Korsi, which is expected to be operational next week.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

During the reporting week, 50 new emergency shelters were constructed, bringing the total number of emergency shelters built in 2024 to 710, with 149 pending completion. The total number of emergency shelters in Korsi remains at 1,948.

The construction of 220 semi-durable shelters continues, with 108 shelters under construction. Of these, 8 are fully completed, and 100 are awaiting the installation of doors and windows. Material supply is ongoing, and 10 semi-durable shelters have been plastered to serve as finishing models for the 108 shelters currently under construction.

As for infrastructure and Buildings, a technical inspection of two school buildings was conducted with local authorities, UNHCR and its partner NOURRIR. Corrective work on 84 tables in the old school building at Nguerendomo has been completed.

Additionally, two school office buildings were also inspected and received with some reservations. Work on the administrative building of the Academic Inspection of Vakaga has been temporarily halted.

after completing the first coat of lime paint on both interior and exterior walls. Work on the health centre building is paused due to a shortage of cement, with delivery expected from Chad to resume the foundation work, which is 90 per cent completed. Lastly, an installation workshop for solar-powered drilling is underway at the health centre in the Igoumbi area.

Food Security

During the reporting week, a total of 2,773 tons of dry food were distributed to 90 households, benefiting 268 individuals. The recipients are the new arrivals from 11 to 13 December, in the Korsi area, achieving a 100 per cent coverage rate.

Health and Nutrition

From 14 to 20 December, a total of 779 curative consultations were conducted by the medical team (UNHCR's partners NOURRIR and IMC under the supervision of WHO and the Vakaga Health District). Of these, 78 consultations were for the host population (10.01 per cent), while 701 were for refugees in Korsi (89.99 per cent). Among the refugees, 169 were new arrivals (21.69 per cent). A total of 234 children aged 0 to 59 months received the outpatient services (30.03 per cent), including 124 girls and 110 boys. Cumulative data for 2024 shows 36,222 curative consultations, with 2,459 being follow-up cases (6.78 per cent) and 3,498 consultations for the host population (9.66 per cent).

The three leading causes of morbidity were malaria (343 cases, 44.03 per cent), acute respiratory infections (159 cases, 20.41 per cent), and intestinal parasitoses (109 cases, 13.99 per cent). The majority of these cases were treated on an outpatient basis in Korsi by the medical staff. Only 7 patients (0.9 per cent) were referred from Korsi to the Birao District Hospital for further treatment.

As for Gynecological and Maternal Health Services, 33 displaced women received prenatal consultations, bringing the cumulative total for 2024 to 1,442 cases. Three postnatal consultations were conducted, totaling 287 for the year. Additionally, 46 women received gynecological consultations, with a cumulative 1,900 for the year. Eight women received family planning services, bringing the total for 2024 to 318 women.

Two deliveries were carried out. The total for 2024 as of 21 December was 141 deliveries, with 144 newborns including two through caesarean sections, three twin births and 136 single deliveries. Seven patients were referred from Korsi to Birao District Hospital, representing 0.9 per cent of the total consultations. Of these, three patients have been discharged after recovery and four remain hospitalized. There were no deaths reported this week, with the total for 2024 standing at 15.

Nutrition monitoring and vaccination activities also took place during the reporting week. 234 children aged 6 to 59 months were screened for malnutrition during curative consultations, resulting in six cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and three cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). The previous mass nutritional screening campaign took place on April 17 with 801 children screened, identifying 88 cases of MAM and 8 cases of SAM. Routine vaccinations were administered to eight pregnant women with tetanus vaccines and four children with multi-antigen vaccines, including one dose against measles. In 2024, as of 21 December, 614 children had received multi-antigen vaccines, including 204 against measles and 571 pregnant women had received tetanus vaccines.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

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

On 2 July, UNHCR and 86 organizations launched the [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) mid-year update, with an appeal for **USD 1.5 billion** to provide essential aid and protection to **3.3 million people** in seven countries by the end of 2024. This includes **USD 46.2 million required 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. As of 21 December, the total reported funding for the CAR RRP remained at some USD 16.2 million, representing **35%** of the required amount.

UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – January - December 2024

UNHCR's total financial requirement for the 2024 [Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal](#), covering Sudan and neighbouring countries, was revised on 3 July. It now amounts to **USD 1.03 billion**. As of 21 December, the appeal is funded at **42%**.

Resources

- [Sudan RRP 2024 Progress Report: May-August 2024](#)
- [UNHCR Annual Executive Committee Meeting - 15 October 2024](#)
- [Sudan-Emergency-Critical-Life-Saving-Needs](#)
- [UNHCR Mpox Appeal 2024](#)
- [Sudan Regional Refugee Response 2024 - June revision](#)
- [Sudan Regional Response 2024 - At a glance](#)
- UNHCR's [Sudan Situation Supplementary Appeal - 2024 - June revision](#)
- [Sudan RRP 2024 Progress Report – January to April 2024](#)
- UNHCR's [Operational Data Portal \(ODP\) for the Sudan Situation](#) provides weekly 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](#)

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