

Central African Republic (CAR) – SUDAN SITUATION

22 – 28 December 2024



*A parcel of agricultural land granted by the local authorities in Birao for the Sudanese refugees of Korsi .
@UNHCR CAR*

Highlights

- During the reporting week, in the Vakaga region, the onset of the dry season had increased the pendular population movements across the border between Am Dafock in the Central African Republic (CAR) and Sudan. The daily crossings involved Sudanese individuals travelling to CAR for various needs including medical care provided by UNHCR's partner, the International Medical Corps (IMC), participation in the weekly market and other activities. These cross-border movements have contributed to the peaceful coexistence of the communities. However, ongoing military operations, particularly counter attacks by government forces against positions held by the RSF, may lead to an escalation in pendular movements toward the CAR, with some refugees considering Am Dafock as a transit point before proceeding to Korsi.
- According to the National Commission for Refugees (Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés – CNR) in Am Dafock, Sudanese face financial difficulties covering transportation costs to reach Korsi in Birao. Some of them have decided to stay in Am Dafock while the government's position was to assist only those opting to go to Korsi. In this regard, a meeting was held in the previous week with local authorities, during which they provisionally allocated a plot of land to accommodate 217 people who are currently in Am Dafock. Meanwhile, other individuals have been reported remaining in Sudan, specifically in the town of Goba, hoping to make their way to Am Dafock in the event they can secure the necessary means to make the journey.
- In the Haute-Kotto and Ouaka prefectures refugee-hosting areas, the security was relatively calm in the urban areas due to deterrent patrols conducted by the National Security Forces (FACA) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. (MINUSCA) forces. However, the situation remains uncertain and unpredictable in peripheral areas and major roadways primarily due to the presence and activities of non-state armed groups. This instability continues to expose the civilian population to acts of violence, human rights violations, and extortion practices.

Population Movements and Registration

During the reporting week, 344 new refugees (136 families) arrived in Birao, Vakaga prefecture, bringing the total number of Sudanese living in that area to 16,877 individuals from 7,185 families. The number of children has reached 9,672 (57 per cent). The National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and UNHCR conducted the biometric registration of 306 individuals from 122 families.

In December, the weekly average number of new refugees arriving in Korsi has risen to 264, reflecting an increase compared to previous weeks. This weekly average surpasses those recorded in November (239), October (63), September (53) and August (27), indicating a growing trend in arrivals.

Outside Korsi, in Sam-Ouandja, Bria and Ippy in Haute-Kotto and Ouaka prefectures, 2,974 Sudanese refugees within 967 families are biometrically registered. In addition, CNR reported the arrival of 105 families of 364 individuals in Sam-Ouandja during the reporting week. These movements are directly linked to the ongoing conflicts in Sudan.

Protection

Newly arrived Sudanese refugees were registered in Birao during the reporting week with 106 identified as persons with specific needs, including one unaccompanied child, 18 single women, eight separated children, 18 women at risk, 63 single parents, two individuals with hearing impairments, one older person living with children, 12 elderly persons and one person with visual impairments.

During the reporting week, 140 family composition certificates were distributed, and 48 refugee identity cards were issued, of which 29 were distributed.

UNHCR's partner INTERSOS conducted 27 monitoring visits including 13 in the host community of Birao and 14 in Korsi. These visits facilitated the collection of security information and documentation of protection incidents, follow-up on previous cases and registration of new GBV cases, coaching and support for community volunteers as well as awareness-raising campaigns on human rights.

In addition, INTERSOS reported 24 protection incidents in the Vakaga prefecture, compared to 42 incidents recorded in the previous week. Men represented 76 per cent of the victims this week, a significant increase compared to 35 per cent the previous week. 92 per cent of the victims were residents, while 8 per cent were refugees. The increased vulnerability of residents is linked to frequent movements along main roads, exposing them to bandits and non-state armed groups. Property rights violations were the most common, with 24 cases recorded, reflecting a decrease of 10 cases compared to the previous week. The most impacted areas include Birao (9 cases), Boromata (7 cases), Ouanda Djallé (6 cases) and Am Dafock (2 cases).

UNHCR and its partner, the National Commission for Refugees (Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés), conducted monitoring visits at the Gendarmerie and Police stations in Birao to assess the conditions of detainees, particularly refugees.

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

During the reporting week, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS held the sixth session of women's discussion groups in Korsi and the host community, focusing on the theme "An Ideal Community." Forty people attended the discussion. Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP) trainers facilitated these sessions.

Additionally, 353 children aged 1 to 5 were identified in preparation for the clothing distribution donations from the UN Peace Keeping Zambian Battalion (ZAMBATT women's engagement team) scheduled for following week.

Education

The French language learning program at the secondary level, funded by the MasterCard Foundation, continues. During the second week of classes, 184 new students were enrolled, bringing the total number of registrations to 473. Due to the enthusiasm of the students and educational authorities, UNHCR and its partner, Finn Church Aid (FCA), are exploring the possibility of increasing the number of teachers in 2025 to reduce class sizes and allow continued registration.

Regarding tertiary education, the selection and confirmation of 30 scholarship recipients for the French language program, in collaboration with the University of Bangui and funded by the MasterCard Foundation, was finalized. This program aims to help Sudanese refugees (Arabic speakers) learn French to pursue higher education in the Central African Republic. Arrangements for their travel to Bangui are underway. If necessary, the registration team updated the students' information in UNHCR's proGres system and printed their refugee cards.

Under the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) project, 25 parent teachers at primary schools received their payment for December. School directors and Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) convened to strengthen the PTAs'

sustainable strategy for teacher support in 2025.

Regarding support to the Academic Inspection, the ECW project enabled the delivery of five tables, chairs, fly boxes and Orange SIM cards to strengthen administrative and IT capacities, especially access to the Internet for finalizing and sharing school year reports. This initiative complements earlier support in 2024, which included the delivery of three tables, chairs, solar panels, and batteries to enhance electricity access. These materials will be installed in the Academic Inspection building once the construction is completed in the coming weeks.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

During the reporting week, the potable water supply remained insufficient, with 100,000 litres of water provided daily to 16,551 people, equating to just 6 litres per person, far below the minimum of 20 litres per person per day as recommended by Sphere standards. To compensate for this situation, the refugees supplement their water needs by fetching water from community water points outside the Korsi neighbourhood.

In addition, the UN Women-funded NGO APADE installed a new solar-powered borehole at Korsi in Block 22 this week. The well will be cleaned next week before it is fully operational.

Hygiene and sanitation teams continued their activities during the reporting week. Hygiene promoters reached 1,823 families of 3,011 people, representing 46 per cent of Korsi's population, through group sessions and block sensitizations, including home visits.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

During the reporting week, 221 families, consisting of 520 people, benefitted from NFI kit assistance in Korsi or 100 per cent coverage of new arrivals.

Additionally, local authorities conducted a provisional technical inspection visit to two school buildings built by UNHCR's partner NOURRIR with ECW funds. Corrective work on 84 concrete tables in the old Nguerendomo school building was also completed.

Food Security

During the reporting week, 5.382 tons of dry food were distributed to 221 families of 520 individuals to ensure food security for these families, also with a 100 per cent coverage rate.

World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with the Central African Institute for Statistics and Economic and Social Studies (Institut Centrafricain des statistiques et des études économiques et sociales—ICASEES), evaluated dry food and cash distributions among Sudanese refugees and community leaders. This evaluation aims to strengthen distribution for 2025. The majority of refugees, especially mothers with children, expressed their preference for the exclusive distribution of dry food rather than cash.

Health and Nutrition

During the reporting week, the medical team in Birao (UNHCR's partner NOURRIR and International Medical Corps (IMC)), under the coordination of the Vakaga District Health Department, conducted 624 curative consultations. Of these, 82 consultations (13 per cent) were for the host population while 542 were for refugees in Korsi. 183 of the refugees were new arrivals. Cumulative data for 2024 indicates a total of 36,846 curative consultations, with 2,478 being follow-up cases and 3,580 consultations for the host population (10 per cent) with 713 patients referred in 2024.

The three leading causes of morbidity were malaria, 222 cases (35.5 per cent), acute respiratory infections, 115 cases (18.4 per cent) and intestinal parasitic infections, 97 cases (15.5 per cent). Most of these cases were treated on an outpatient basis by the medical team in the Korsi. Ten patients were referred from Korsi to the Birao District Hospital for further treatment. Ten patients were referred from Korsi to the Birao District Hospital during the reporting week, representing 1.6 per cent of all treated patients. Six patients were discharged after recovery while four remain hospitalized.

Regarding Gynecological and Maternal Health Services, 32 women received prenatal consultations, bringing the total for 2024 to 1,474 cases. Three postnatal consultations were recorded, bringing the total to 290 cases. Additionally, 37 women received gynecological consultations, bringing the total for the year to 1,937. Finally, nine women received family planning services, bring the total to 327 for 2024.

Four deliveries were conducted, bringing the total for 2024 to 145 deliveries and 148 newborns, including 81 boys and 67 girls.

Nutrition and vaccination activities also took place during the reporting week. 206 children aged 6 to 59 months were screened for malnutrition, resulting in seven cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and three cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) detected. Additionally, routine tetanus vaccinations were administered to seven pregnant women. Three children received multi-antigen vaccines. The cumulative number of children who have received multi-antigen vaccinations in 2024 is 617 including 204 for measles. Additionally, a total of 578 pregnant women received the tetanus vaccine.

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 28 December, the total funding for the CAR remained at some USD 16.2 million or **35%** 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 28 December, the total available funding for the appeal is 30% 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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