SUDAN

COUNTRY REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2026

Refugee Consultation Forum

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Refugee children from Ethiopia play at a Child-Friendly Space in the Um Rakuba Refugee Camp, Gedaref State. Photos: © UNHCR/Assadullah Nasrullah

CREDITS

UNHCR acknowledges the contributions of partners and colleagues in Sudan who have participated in the preparation of the narrative, financial and graphic components of this document.

The maps in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of UNHCR concerning the legal status of any country or territory or area, of its authorities, or the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

All statistics are provisional and subject to change.

This document and further information are available on the UNHCR data portal Sudan Page.

Please click on the following link: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/sdn or scan the QR code.

Contents

Part 1: Current Situation 7
Situation Overview 7
Sudan Risks and Needs 7
Part 2: Sudan Response and Solutions Strategy 9
Role of the Government 9
Sudan 2026 Strategic Objectives 9
HDP Nexus Approaches to Promote Protection, Resilience, Inclusion and Solutions 10
Cross-Cutting Response Priorities 10
Sectoral Responses 13
Partnership and Coordination 18
Annex 1 – Country Budget Summary by Partner 19
Annex 2 – Country Monitoring Framework 20

At a Glance

Sudan Planned Response

January – December 2026

913 K
Projected refugee population by the end of 2026

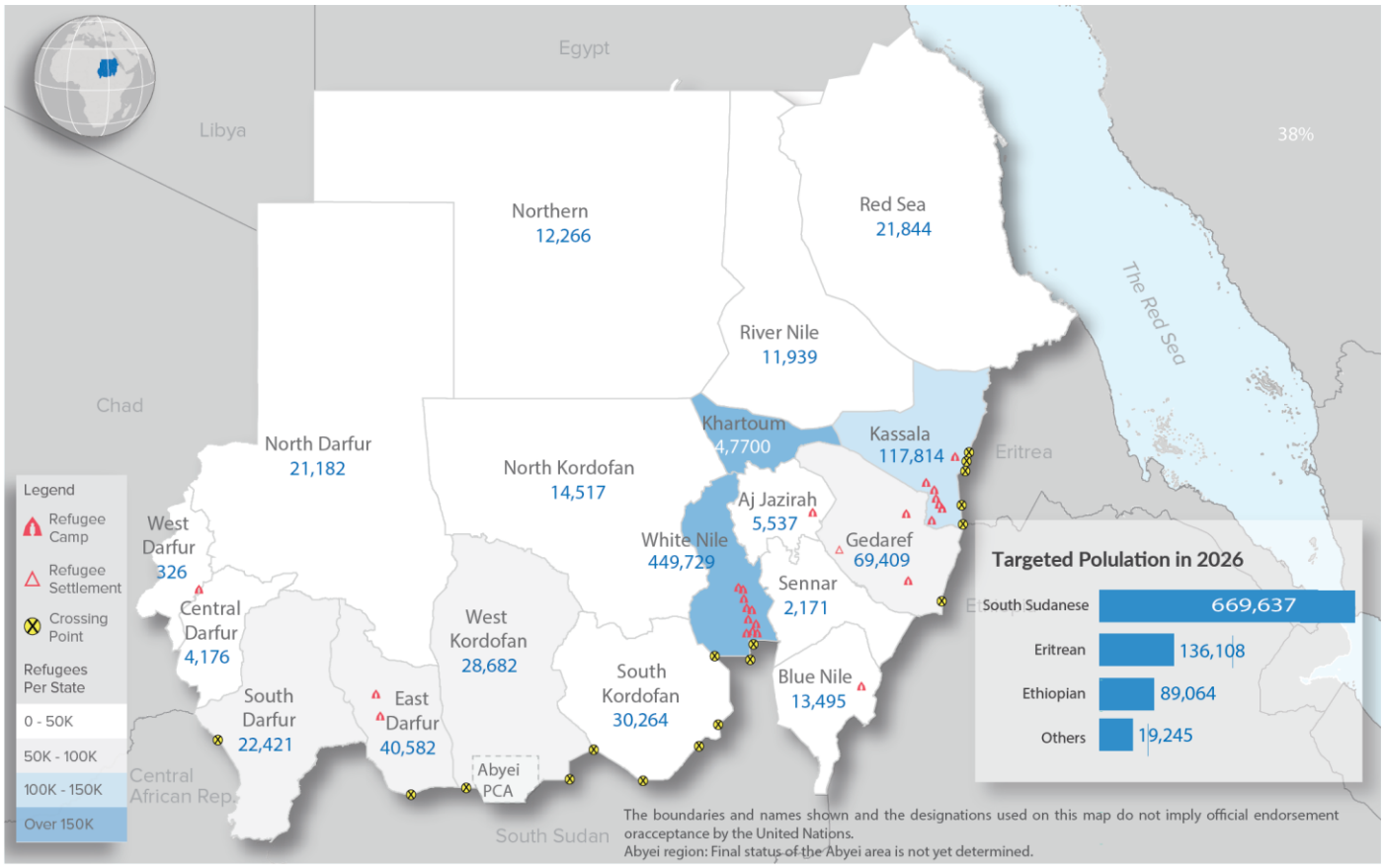
106 K
Projected assisted host-community members

USD 526.6 M
Total financial requirements

USD 284.1 M
Prioritized financial requirements

17
CRRP Partners

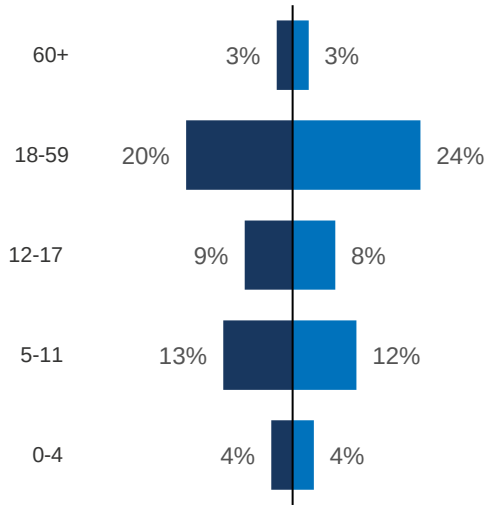
Overview of Sudan localities covered by the refugee response in 2026



Population Planning Figures

Sudan	Population as of the end of 2025	Planned Population as of end of 2026
Refugees and asylum-seekers	890,462	913,456
from South Sudan	*634,954*	*669,637*
from Eritrea	*137,475*	*136,108*
from Ethiopia	*68,237*	*89,064*
other refugees	*19,308*	*18,647*
Targeted Host Population		
Host Community	165,585	105,895
Total	**1,025,559**	**1,019,351**

Age and gender breakdown



16%
people with disabilities[1]

51%
women and girls

49%
men and boys

46%
children

[1] The global estimate is that 16 per cent of the population is expected to have a disability. https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicablediseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/global-report-on-health-equity-for-persons-with-disabilities

Financial Requirements

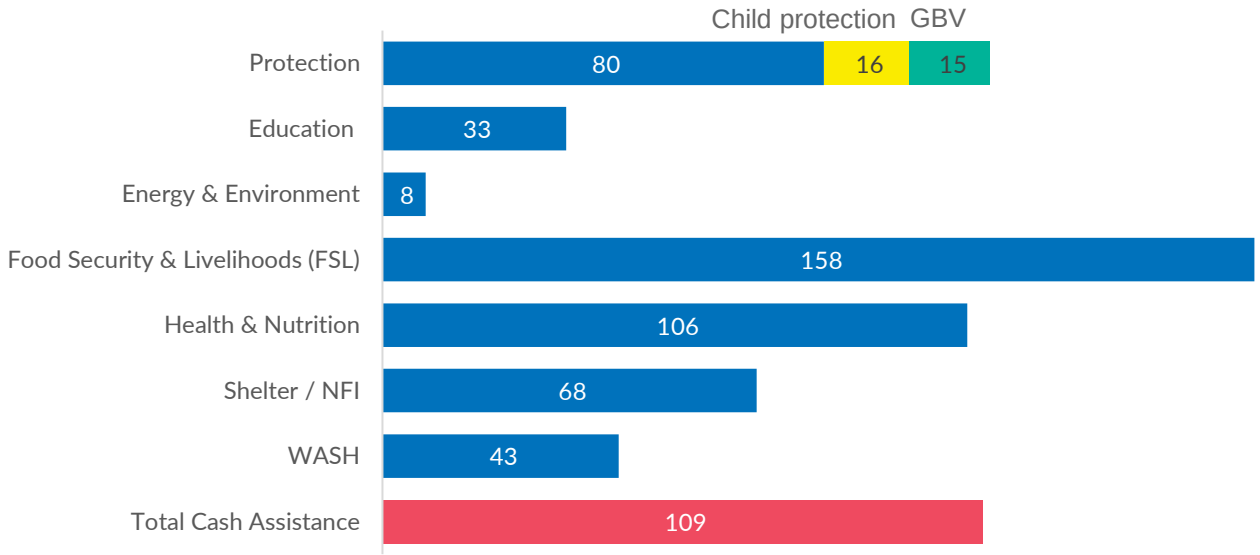
Financial Requirements in USD

$ 526.6 M

Critical Needs $ 284.1 M

Budget summary by sector

Million in USD



** This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. Unrestricted/ multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector. As the modality of choice of persons of concern, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to provide protection outcomes and meet immediate basic needs.*

Partners by type

PARTNER	NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS[2]
UN agencies	7
International NGOs	6
National NGOs	4
TOTAL	**17**

Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the CRRP, many of which collaborate with funded partners to carry out CRRP activities. See Budget Summary by Partner, for partner breakdown per type.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Sudan hosts one of the largest refugee and asylum-seeker populations in Africa, with populations originating mainly from South Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia. Since the outbreak of conflict on 15 April 2023, the protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers has deteriorated significantly. Refugees and asylum-seekers seeking safety in Sudan from conflict, persecution and instability in their countries of origin now face an active internal conflict that has eroded protection space, disrupted basic services and constrained humanitarian access across refugee-hosting areas.

As of the end of December 2025, Sudan hosted approximately 859,974 refugees and asylum-seekers across 91 localities. The conflict has driven widespread secondary displacement of refugees and asylum-seekers from urban centres to camps, resulting in a near doubling of the camp-based refugee population and placing severe strain on camp infrastructure and humanitarian capacity. An additional 84,038 refugees and asylum-seekers arrived during 2025, primarily from South Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia, driven by continued insecurity, human rights violations and limited access to basic services in countries of origin. A substantial proportion of refugees is expected to remain in Sudan throughout 2026, as opportunities for voluntary return and other durable solutions remain limited.

Approximately two-thirds of refugees reside in camps and settlements, where overstretched infrastructure and access constraints continue to undermine service delivery. The remaining third live in urban and peri-urban settings, with limited or no assistance, weak tenure security and reliance on informal livelihoods expose households to heightened protection risks, including eviction, exploitation and harmful coping mechanisms. While basic assistance remains concentrated in camp settings, protection risks increasingly affect refugees both inside and outside camps, requiring a differentiated, context-specific response.

Sudan remains affected by complex and overlapping population movements. While reduced fighting in some areas has prompted the return of large numbers of Sudanese from neighbouring countries, many remain stranded in border and transit states, intensifying pressure on services and humanitarian capacity in refugee-hosting areas.

Despite insecurity and access constraints, the Sudan Country Refugee Response Plan (CRRP) partners maintain an operational presence in 18 states and aim to maintain the capacity to scale up assistance where conditions permit. The 2026 Sudan CRRP brings together 17 partners to deliver protection and life-saving assistance to meet the critical needs of the target populations, prioritising the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers across camp and out-of-camp settings, while strengthening registration, documentation, and protection systems as a foundation for an effective response.

Sudan Risks and Needs

Sudan's conflict drives one of the most complex and volatile displacement environments globally. With no durable political or security resolution in sight, the crisis is expected to persist into 2026, further constraining protection space, weakening national systems and exacerbating risks for refugees and asylum-seekers who had sought safety in Sudan.

The displacement context is highly fluid. Sudan continues to experience simultaneous outward movements to the neighbouring countries, new arrivals of refugees and asylum-seekers and large-scale returns of Sudanese nationals, creating complex dynamics that place additional pressure on refugee-hosting areas. Refugees and asylum-seekers have been significantly affected by secondary displacement within Sudan as a direct result of the conflict, particularly movements from urban areas to camps. This shift has reversed pre-conflict settlement patterns, eroded self-reliance, and sharply increased dependency on humanitarian assistance, while placing severe strain on camp-based infrastructure and services.

Protection risks have intensified amid the collapse of public institutions, law enforcement and judicial mechanisms. Refugees and asylum-seekers face heightened exposure to gender-based violence, trafficking, exploitation, arbitrary arrest and detention, particularly in conflict-affected and access-constrained areas. Loss of civil and legal documentation due to repeated displacement and service disruptions has restricted freedom of movement, limited access to assistance and increased the risk of statelessness, especially for children. Unaccompanied and separated children have been identified across multiple states, often linked to secondary displacement and mixed movement routes.

Access to essential services has deteriorated sharply, compounding protection risks and undermining coping capacities. Education disruptions remain severe: as of September 2025, an estimated 300,000 refugee children,

representing 86 per cent of school-age refugee children, stay out of school, exposing them to heightened risks of child labour, child marriage and exploitation. Health services are similarly overstretched, with only around 40 per cent of required health personnel in place in refugee-hosting areas, resulting in exceptionally high caseloads per clinician. Availability of essential medicines and medical supplies meets only about 60 per cent of needs, while services for HIV, tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases and mental health and psychosocial support remain insufficient.

Secondary displacement and overcrowding have also widened gaps in water, sanitation and hygiene services. Most refugee camps do not meet minimum standards for water availability or sanitation coverage, increasing the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks, particularly in contexts where health and nutrition services are already constrained.

Food insecurity and economic collapse has undermined refugees, ability to meet basic needs. Restricted access to markets, land, employment and financial services—combined with insecurity and administrative barriers—has increased reliance on humanitarian assistance and heightened the risk of harmful coping strategies, including unsafe onward movement.

MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT (MSNA)

Findings from the 2025 Refugee Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA), conducted between July and September 2025 across 12 states and 42 localities, confirm that refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan are experiencing severe and multidimensional needs, comparable to or exceeding those of other crisis-affected population groups in conflict-affected areas. The MSNA constitutes the primary evidence base for CRRP prioritisation, targeting and severity analysis for refugee populations.

The assessment shows that two-thirds of refugee households are food insecure, with only one-third achieving acceptable food consumption and widespread reliance on negative coping strategies, including crisis and emergency livelihood coping. Food insecurity is most acute in Darfur and Kordofan states but also affects large camp-based refugee populations in relatively more stable states such as White Nile, Kassala and Gedaref, where declining incomes, high prices and irregular assistance limit effective food access. Refugees consistently record poorer food security outcomes than non-displaced populations and, in many locations, outcomes comparable to or worse than IDPs.

Access to essential services remains constrained. Only half of refugee households in need of health care were able to access services, primarily due to shortages of medicines and services and high out-of-pocket costs. WASH conditions are fragile, with heavy reliance on public water points, water vendors and trucking, insufficient water for hygiene, and widespread sanitation gaps, particularly in camps and informal settlements. Shelter conditions are frequently inadequate, characterised by temporary structures, water leakage, overcrowding and weak tenure security.

Protection risks are pronounced, particularly in conflict-affected states. More than a quarter of refugee households report movement restrictions, while psychosocial distress affects a significant share of households, reaching very high levels in Darfur and Kordofan. Child protection risks, including family separation, hazardous child labour and psychosocial distress among children, are elevated, and large proportions of households report safety concerns affecting women and girls. Despite relatively high assistance coverage, only a minority of refugee households report that assistance meets their priority needs, indicating persistent gaps in scale, adequacy and alignment.

MSNA findings were further analysed to assess the relative severity of needs across refugee-hosting localities, taking into account the cumulative impact of food insecurity, protection risks, service access constraints and displacement dynamics. This analysis informed the development of a refugee severity ranking by locality, reflected in the accompanying map, which highlights marked geographic disparities. Localities hosting large numbers of secondarily displaced refugees—particularly in camp settings and conflict-affected or access-constrained areas—consistently present the highest severity levels. The severity analysis underpins CRRP prioritisation and targeting, enabling partners to direct limited resources towards locations where refugees and asylum-seekers face the most acute and overlapping vulnerabilities, while retaining flexibility to adjust programming as conditions evolve.

Part 2: Sudan Response and Solutions Strategy

Role of the Government

The Government of Sudan is a central actor in the refugee response, with primary responsibility for asylum, protection and the overall policy and legal framework governing refugees and asylum-seekers. National and state authorities play a critical role in maintaining asylum space, facilitating access to territory, and enabling the presence and operation of humanitarian actors. Through the Commission for Refugees (COR) and relevant line ministries, the Government works with UNHCR and CRRP partners to support registration and documentation, coordinate refugee assistance, and promote access to basic services in line with national legislation and international protection standards. In line with the Protection and Solutions Strategy, the CRRP prioritises engagement with government counterparts to strengthen systems, policies, and coordination mechanisms that support protection, inclusion, and solutions, including, where feasible, gradual alignment with national service delivery systems.

The CRRP will continue policy dialogue and capacity support at national and state levels to reinforce protection principles, mitigate risks arising from the conflict, and support conditions for durable solutions, while adapting engagement modalities to the evolving security and access environment.

Sudan 2026 Strategic Objectives

The 2026 Country Refugee Response Plan (CRRP) is structured around three strategic objectives that guide a principled, prioritized and coordinated response to the protection and assistance needs of refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan. In a highly volatile and conflict-affected context, the CRRP prioritizes critical life-saving protection and assistance while laying the groundwork for increased self-reliance and inclusion where conditions allow. The response will be implemented in line with national frameworks and international protection standards, with a strong focus on accountability, coordination and sustainability.

1: Strengthen the protective environment for refugees and asylum-seekers

This objective aims to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan can access and enjoy their rights in accordance with national, regional, and international legal frameworks. It focuses on safeguarding access to territory and asylum, strengthening protection procedures, mitigating protection risks and reinforcing respect for international protection principles, including in conflict-affected and displacement-affected areas.

2: Enable access to timely protection interventions and life-saving assistance for refugees, asylum-seekers and hosting communities

Strategic objective 2 focuses on delivering coordinated, multi-sector life-saving assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers in camps, settlements, reception areas, and other hosting locations, subject to security and access conditions. The objective prioritises protection, health, nutrition, WASH, shelter, education, energy and basic services to address acute needs, reduce vulnerability and mitigate risks associated with overcrowding and service gaps.

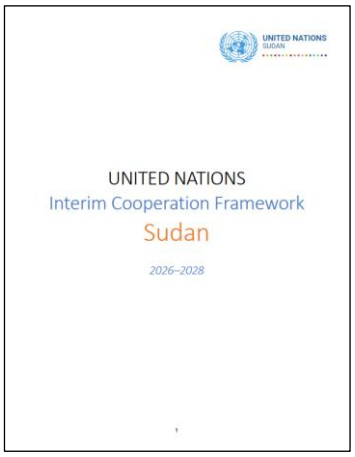
3: Foster self-reliance through livelihoods and promote inclusion, while avoiding parallel service provisions to refugees and host populations

This objective aims to strengthen self-reliance and social cohesion by expanding refugees' access to livelihoods, services and local systems, while avoiding parallel service delivery. Activities will be prioritized in areas with relative stability and market functionality, and implemented through partnerships with government authorities, development actors, the private sector and host communities to support dignified, sustainable solutions.

Across all objectives, particular emphasis will be placed on refugees residing in camp settings for the provision of basic services, while protection interventions will prioritise the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers both in and out of camps.

HDP Nexus Approaches to Promote Protection, Resilience, Inclusion and Solutions

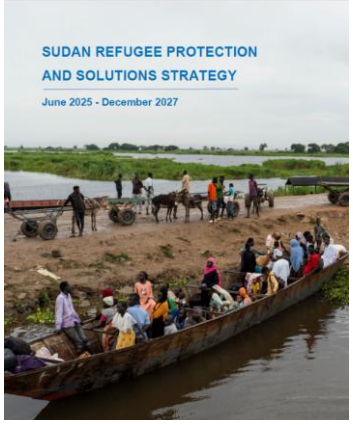
The 2026 CRRP applies a humanitarian–development–peace (HDP) nexus approach to address the protracted and complex nature of refugee displacement in Sudan. Recognising the interlinkages between life-saving assistance, protection, recovery and solutions, the response aligns with the UN Sudan Interim Cooperation Framework 2026–2028 and adopts a sequenced and complementary approach across sectors.



UN Sudan Interim Cooperation Framework 2026-2028

At the humanitarian level, the CRRP prioritizes immediate critical protection and life-saving assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers affected by conflict, secondary displacement and severe service disruptions. Protection mainstreaming remains central across all sectors, with emphasis on child protection, gender-based violence prevention and response, access to documentation, and safeguarding against exploitation and abuse. Emergency interventions are designed to mitigate risks while preserving dignity and preventing the erosion of longer-term resilience.

Building on this foundation, the CRRP integrates resilience and recovery-oriented interventions from the outset. In line with the Protection and Solutions Strategy, sector responses increasingly support systems strengthening, inclusion of refugees in national services where feasible, and community-based approaches that benefit both refugees and host communities. Investments in education, health, WASH, livelihoods, energy, and cash-based assistance help restore essential services and livelihoods while reducing reliance on parallel structures.



Sudan Refugee Protection and Solutions Strategy (2025-2027)

Peace and social cohesion considerations are integrated through area-based approaches and inclusive community engagement, addressing tensions linked to displacement, resource pressure and service overstretch. While large-scale durable solutions remain constrained by the conflict, the CRRP advances solution-oriented programming by strengthening self-reliance, access to livelihoods and education, civil documentation and freedom of movement. Together, these efforts aim to reduce dependency, mitigate repeated displacement and lay the groundwork for sustainable solutions when conditions permit.

Cross-Cutting Response Priorities

Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)

The Sudan Country Refugee Response Plan adopts an AGD approach to ensure that the rights, needs, and capacities of women, men, girls, and boys from diverse backgrounds are systematically reflected across all sectors. The response will promote meaningful participation of refugees and asylum-seekers in planning, implementation and monitoring through community-based and participatory approaches, including peer groups and community structures. Protection will be mainstreamed across the response to address differentiated risks and barriers faced by specific groups, with targeted efforts to strengthen the leadership and participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities. Engagement with refugee-led organizations will be strengthened as a core element of the AGD approach, alongside support for women-, youth-, and disability-led organizations, to enhance inclusive representation, accountability, and community ownership. AGD-sensitive data collection and analysis will be reinforced across sectors, with partners supported to systematically disaggregate data by age, gender, and diversity characteristics. The Gender with Age Marker will be applied to monitor progress toward gender equality and inclusion and to inform adaptive programming throughout the response cycle.

Sub-Section: Disability Inclusion

Disability inclusion will be mainstreamed across the response in line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), ensuring that refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities can access assistance and services, and participate in decision-making, on an equal basis. Partners will strengthen their capacity to identify and address environmental, attitudinal and communication barriers across sectors, with targeted support to inclusive programming

and accessibility standards. Refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities will be meaningfully engaged throughout the programme cycle, including through community-based networks, representative organizations and consultation mechanisms, to ensure that their perspectives inform planning and implementation. Sector responses will integrate disability-specific considerations and targeted measures to improve access to services, information and community participation. Coordination through the Refugee Consultation Forum and other inter-agency platforms will support coherent implementation, joint action planning and monitoring of progress toward inclusive and equitable outcomes.

Sub-Section: Youth

Youth engagement is of crucial importance for long-term resilience building among forcibly displaced and will be integrated into the CRRP framework. Community mobilisation and community outreach via youth committees and networks will enable direct engagement and feedback loops to capture challenges and explore solutions for youth and young adults. Targeted interventions that support youth and young adults, access to education, livelihood opportunities, and recreational activities will mitigate protection risks arising from limited opportunities. Sudan is also a part of the UNHCR Regional Youth Peacebuilding Programme3, which aims at increasing the capacity of youth affected by displacement to become peacebuilders and agents of change within their communities.

Accountability to Affected People (AAP)

Accountability to Affected People will be embedded across the response through the systematic engagement of refugees, asylum-seekers, and host communities in programme design, implementation, and monitoring. Partners will strengthen community feedback and response mechanisms, supported by capacity-building and coordination through inter-agency AAP platforms, to ensure that community perspectives inform decision-making. Accessible and trusted communication channels, including community-based mechanisms and digital platforms, will be used to share timely information, counter misinformation and promote two-way dialogue. Existing complaint and feedback mechanisms will be maintained to ensure safe, confidential and inclusive access, with data disaggregated by age, gender and diversity. Regular participatory assessments and targeted consultations will support accountability, protection and do-no-harm principles across the programme cycle.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

The risk of sexual exploitation and abuse remains high in Sudan's conflict-affected context, particularly for refugees and asylum-seekers in areas with limited humanitarian presence and restricted access. Insecurity, displacement, and reduced service availability further heighten vulnerabilities and barriers to reporting. The Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF) and CRRP partners are committed to preventing, mitigating, and responding to SEA through a survivor-centred, rights-based approach. In 2026, efforts will focus on strengthening partner capacity, reinforcing PSEA awareness, and expanding safe, accessible and confidential reporting and referral mechanisms in line with inter-agency standards. Engagement with refugees and asylum-seekers will be strengthened to promote trust, awareness and accountability, with close alignment to Accountability to Affected People (AAP) commitments and GBV prevention and response strategies across the refugee response.

Localization

The Sudan CRRP prioritizes localization in line with Grand Bargain commitments, recognising the essential role of national and local civil society actors, often the first responders in access-constrained and conflict-affected environments. This includes national NGOs, refugee-led, community-based, women-led and faith-based organizations. Partners will strengthen local and national civil society capacities through technical assistance, governance support, improved access to coordination mechanisms and more equitable partnership arrangements. Flexible funding modalities and co-leadership will be promoted to ensure that local actors meaningfully contribute to joint planning, implementation and monitoring across the response. Funding reductions in 2025 and anticipated constrained resources in 2026 have, however, limited the scale and continuity of localisation efforts, particularly affecting capacity strengthening, predictable funding and sustained engagement of civil society partners. In parallel, CRRP partners will support state-level systems and essential services in refugee-hosting areas to benefit both

[3] https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/106242

displaced and host communities. By linking humanitarian assistance with longer-term recovery and resilience efforts, the response aims to strengthen national ownership and support sustainable, locally driven refugee responses.

Climate Action

The CRRP integrates climate action across all sectoral responses to reduce environmental degradation, mitigate climate-related risks and strengthen resilience for refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities. Climate-smart and low-carbon approaches will be prioritized, including the solarization of water systems, health facilities, schools and community infrastructure to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and improve service continuity. Environmentally sustainable shelter and settlement interventions will promote safer living conditions while minimising pressure on natural resources. Livelihood and energy interventions will support climate-resilient agriculture, reforestation, agroforestry, and energy-efficient household solutions to reduce exposure to environmental hazards and reliance on negative coping strategies. WASH and health programming will integrate climate adaptation and preparedness measures to mitigate flood- and drought-related risks and reduce the impact of climate-sensitive diseases. Collectively, these actions aim to strengthen environmental stewardship, lower carbon emissions and enhance long-term resilience across refugee-hosting areas.

Cash Assistance

Cash-based assistance will remain a priority modality in 2026, enabling refugees and asylum-seekers to meet essential needs in a flexible, dignified and market-responsive manner where conditions allow. Building on implementation experience from 2024 and 2025, partners will expand the use of cash across sectors, including basic needs, shelter and NFIs, livelihoods, and food assistance, where market conditions permit a gradual transition from in-kind support, while mitigating risks linked to market volatility and access constraints. Cash interventions will be coordinated through the inter-agency Cash Working Group to ensure coherence, accountability and alignment with sectoral priorities. They will be implemented alongside in-kind assistance where markets or delivery systems are disrupted.

Solar power brings clean water and hope to refugees and host communities in White Nile State in Al Alagaya refugee camp © UNHCR/Antonia Vadala

Sectoral Responses

PROTECTION

In 2026, the protection response will focus on safeguarding access to territory and asylum while strengthening registration, documentation and refugee status determination (RSD) systems. In partnership with the Commission for Refugees (COR), protection actors will support quality registration and profiling, issuance of civil and refugee documentation, and targeted measures to reduce RSD backlogs, recognizing documentation as a foundation for access to protection, services and solutions.

Border and movement monitoring will be reinforced to track displacement dynamics, support admission in line with international standards, and enable early identification of protection risks, including trafficking, smuggling and exploitation. Protection interventions will also seek to mitigate the direct and indirect effects of the armed conflict on refugees and asylum-seekers, including exposure to violence, displacement and movement restrictions. Protection monitoring and analysis will be expanded to inform advocacy, programme adaptation and multi-sectoral responses. Legal assistance will be strengthened through counselling, representation and strategic engagement with national institutions to maximise coverage.

Advocacy with authorities and relevant stakeholders will prioritise respect for the principle of non-refoulement, the mitigation of risks related to arrest, detention, and deportation, the preservation of the civilian character of asylum and refugee sites, and the promotion of freedom of movement and alternatives to camps.

Protection risks associated with mixed movements will be addressed through strengthened cross-border monitoring, community information and awareness initiatives, youth engagement, and coordinated action by the Mixed Migration Working Group. Survivors of trafficking and exploitation will be supported through referral pathways, psychosocial assistance, access to justice and timely access to asylum procedures.

The response will be delivered in a highly constrained operational environment characterized by insecurity, restrictive policies and chronic underfunding, which have already led to the scaling back of essential protection activities. Sustained investment remains critical to prevent further erosion of protection outcomes and to preserve core asylum and protection safeguards.

Sub-Section: Community Engagement and Empowerment

RRP partners will strengthen community resilience by supporting refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to actively participate in identifying and mitigating protection risks through community-based protection mechanisms. Community-Based Protection Networks (CBPNs), peace and reconciliation committees, and community-led initiatives, including Multi-Purpose Community Centres (MPCCs), will be strengthened to promote inclusive participation, social cohesion, and referrals to services, applying an AGD approach.

Two-way communication with communities will be strengthened through accessible and trusted channels to ensure timely access to information and meaningful feedback, in line with inter-agency Accountability to Affected People (AAP) standards. Refugee- and forcibly displaced-led organizations will be supported through capacity development, partnerships and improved access to funding to enhance representation and local leadership. Community engagement will also contribute to PSEA prevention by strengthening awareness, safe reporting and trust between communities and service providers.

Sub-Sector: Child Protection

Child protection efforts in 2026 will prioritize life-saving interventions to prevent and respond to imminent harm affecting refugee and asylum-seeker children, particularly those at heightened risk of violence, abuse, exploitation and family separation. Community-based child protection mechanisms will be strengthened to support early risk identification, promote protective practices, and reinforce local ownership and sustainability.

Priority actions include harmonizing child protection case management through the rollout of Child Protection Information Management System and integrating Best Interests Procedures (BIP) into national child protection systems to facilitate the inclusion of refugee children. Safe, confidential and functional referral pathways will be reinforced to ensure timely access to alternative care, family tracing and reunification services for unaccompanied and separated children.

Psychosocial support for children and caregivers will be expanded through structured, community-based approaches, including peer support and group activities, to mitigate distress and strengthen coping capacities. Capacity development for national and local actors, including community-based and refugee-led organizations, will support coordinated, high-quality service delivery. Community-driven awareness initiatives will promote positive parenting and child protection norms, helping prevent harmful practices and strengthen protective environments for children.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

In 2026, the GBV response will prioritize the prevention of and response to gender-based violence through a survivor-centred, rights-based and community-informed approach. Life-saving GBV services, including case management, psychosocial support, health referrals and legal assistance, will be sustained and, where access permits, expanded to ensure timely, confidential and quality support for survivors.

Community-based GBV prevention and risk mitigation initiatives will be strengthened through awareness-raising, engagement of community volunteers and partnerships with women-led and refugee-led organizations, contributing to local ownership and resilience. Efforts to integrate GBV risk mitigation across all sectors will be reinforced to reduce exposure to harm in the delivery of health, education, shelter, livelihoods and other services.

Functional referral pathways and coordination mechanisms will be maintained and strengthened to ensure safe, ethical and effective service delivery, in line with GBV Minimum Standards. Targeted livelihood and economic empowerment activities for women and adolescent girls will be supported as a protective measure to reduce harmful coping strategies and associated GBV risks. Engagement of men, boys and community leaders will be promoted to challenge harmful social norms and support gender equality, complementing survivor-focused services and prevention efforts.

EDUCATION

The ongoing conflict and repeated displacement have severely disrupted access to education for refugee children in Sudan, resulting in prolonged learning interruptions, significant learning loss and increased dropout. Many refugee learners have experienced multiple displacements, undermining continuity of education and limiting progression within the school system. Enrolment remains remarkably low in conflict-affected and displacement-affected areas, where education services are unavailable, overstretched or inaccessible due to insecurity and protection concerns. Refugee children displaced from urban areas, including Khartoum, have relocated to localities with limited education infrastructure. At the same time, new arrivals in White Nile and Blue Nile have further strained camp-based services.

In 2026, education partners will work closely with the Ministry of Education (MoE) at national and sub-national levels to restore and expand access to safe, inclusive and quality education for refugee children, using the national Sudanese curriculum and aligned with Sudan,s commitments under the Djibouti Declaration, the Asylum Act and the Sudan Transitional Education Plan for 2025-2027. Interventions will prioritise formal and non-formal education pathways, improve learning environments, provide teaching and learning materials, and strengthen MoE capacities on inclusive education.

Teacher recruitment, training and retention will be supported, including certification of refugee and volunteer teachers, alongside strengthened school management committees. Community engagement initiatives will promote enrolment, attendance and retention of refugee learners, with particular attention to girls and children at heightened risk. Where feasible, partners will also support skills development, access to secondary and tertiary education, and the administration of national examinations to enable refugee students to progress alongside Sudanese peers.

Continued underinvestment in refugee education remains a critical risk, exposing children to protection threats including child labour, child marriage and exploitation, and undermining prospects for durable solutions and self-reliance.

PUBLIC HEALTH & NUTRITION

In 2026, the public health and nutrition response will prioritise ensuring continued access to essential, life-saving health and nutrition services for refugees, while strengthening referral systems and service quality in close collaboration with national authorities. Partners will work with the Ministry of Health at national and state levels to support coordinated service delivery through existing health systems, minimizing parallel structures and reinforcing sustainability.

Primary health care services will be sustained across refugee camps and hosting areas, complemented by strengthened secondary and tertiary referral pathways. Interventions will focus on the provision of essential medicines, medical supplies and equipment, rehabilitation and upgrading of health facilities, and recruitment and capacity development of health personnel. Emergency medical services and outbreak preparedness will be reinforced, particularly for newly arrived and secondarily displaced refugees at entry points and the camp level.

Comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, including clinical management of rape, will be scaled up alongside prevention and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Mental health and psychosocial support will be integrated into health and protection services through both facility-based and community approaches. Community health promotion and disease prevention activities will be implemented to improve health-seeking behaviours and reduce preventable morbidity.

Nutrition interventions will prioritise the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition among children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women through integrated facility- and community-based approaches. This includes routine nutrition screening, strengthened infant and young child feeding services, and promotion of nutrition-sensitive activities. In light of gaps in comprehensive nutrition data, partners plan to conduct Standardised Expanded Nutrition Surveys (SENS) in 2026 to strengthen evidence-based planning, targeting and monitoring. Nutrition surveillance and information systems will be strengthened to inform timely, evidence-based response planning and monitor outcomes.

Sustained investment will be essential to address persistent service gaps, maintain continuity of care and prevent further deterioration of health and nutrition outcomes among refugee populations.

FOOD SECURITY

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has exacerbated the food insecurity situation among civilians, including refugees and asylum-seekers. Food and other essential commodity prices have soared, and disrupted supply chains have severely limited access to basic necessities, even in areas where markets remain functional. Most refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly those living in camp settings, are disproportionately affected, as they are largely excluded from formal economies and heavily reliant on food assistance. As such, these groups will continue to be prioritized for food assistance in 2026.

Food security interventions will focus on Famine areas (IPC Phase 5), as well as Risk of Famine areas, where populations are either in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) or at risk of entering IPC Phase 5 (Famine)[4]. Efforts will include aiming to provide full food rations through cash-based transfers (either through digital cash transfers/e-wallets; or value vouchers and local market networks), or in-kind food assistance, alongside blanket supplementary feeding programmes for children under five and pregnant and lactating women. Coordination with the Nutrition and Health sectors will ensure an integrated response to address acute malnutrition in these critical areas. 2026 will see the shift to cash-based assistance where appropriate, supported by market feasibility studies and cross-cutting assessments.

The 2026 plan focuses on maintaining life-saving assistance while adapting modalities to market functionality and access realities. In 2026, partners will aim to provide full rations to refugees and asylum-seekers using in-kind or cash modalities, forecast resources and pipeline challenges might require prioritization and rationalization within the broader refugee response.

[4] https://www.ifpri.org/blog/ipc-famine-and-food-insecurity-spread-in-sudan-as-humanitarian-crisis-worsens

LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE (AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION)

In 2026, livelihoods and resilience interventions will focus on strengthening self-reliance and socio-economic inclusion of refugees, while contributing to local economic recovery in hosting areas. The response will prioritise market-oriented, environmentally sustainable approaches that reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance and support pathways toward durable solutions, in line with the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus.

Partners will support diversified livelihood opportunities through climate-smart agriculture, livestock and fisheries activities, with an emphasis on value addition and access to local markets. Support for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship will be expanded to promote income generation and inclusive growth, alongside market-relevant vocational skills training for refugees, particularly women and youth. Livelihood activities will be designed to be conflict-sensitive and adapted to insecurity, mobility constraints and limited market access in refugee-hosting areas.

Improving access to financial services will remain a priority, including through linkages with microfinance institutions, digital payment solutions and strengthened community-based savings and loan groups, where feasible. These interventions will be complemented by income-generating activities and cash-based modalities that stimulate local markets while meeting immediate needs.

Livelihood programming will also integrate climate resilience and environmental sustainability to mitigate the impacts of climate-related shocks and resource degradation. Close coordination with government counterparts, development actors and the private sector will support alignment with national frameworks and promote inclusion of refugees in local economic systems.

Persistent challenges, including economic volatility, inflation, insecurity, limited access to land and financial services, will continue to constrain recovery. Sustained investment and flexible programming will be essential to protect livelihood gains, strengthen resilience and enable refugees and host communities to rebuild productive capacities.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

In 2026, shelter and NFI interventions will focus on improving living conditions for refugees and asylum-seekers and mitigating protection risks associated with overcrowding, insecure tenure, and inadequate shelter. The response will prioritise the most vulnerable households in camps, settlements and out-of-camp settings, including newly arrived and secondarily displaced refugees.

Partners will provide emergency and transitional shelter support, rehabilitation of existing shelters, and targeted NFI assistance to meet essential household needs. Particular attention will be given to shelter safety, privacy and accessibility, applying an AGD approach to address the needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

In camp and settlement contexts, site planning and improvements will support safer living environments, reduce overcrowding and strengthen access to basic services. In urban and out-of-camp settings, cash-based assistance will be prioritized where markets are functional to enable households to meet their shelter and NFI needs in a flexible and dignified manner, while mitigating the risk of eviction and secondary displacement.

Shelter and NFI programming will integrate protection and GBV risk mitigation measures, including safe access, lighting and consultation with affected communities. Environmental considerations and climate-resilient approaches will be incorporated to reduce environmental impact and improve the durability of shelter solutions. Sustained investment remains essential to address shelter gaps and prevent further deterioration of living conditions for refugee populations.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In 2026, WASH partners will prioritise sustained, safe and equitable access to water, sanitation and hygiene services for refugees and asylum-seekers, while supporting overstretched host community systems. The response will emphasise climate-resilient, energy-efficient and cost-effective solutions that strengthen service continuity and reduce reliance on emergency modalities.

Water supply interventions will focus on the operation, rehabilitation, and expansion of existing systems, including solarization of boreholes, treatment plants, and pumping stations; improvements to storage and distribution networks; and the identification of reliable water sources. Where feasible, partners will progressively transition from water trucking to sustainable, solar-powered systems. Additionally, where feasible the operations will shift from fossil-fuel-dependent power sources to renewable solar-powered solutions to enhance environmental sustainability, cost efficiency, and continuity of services. Water quality monitoring and treatment will be strengthened across accessible refugee camps and settlements to safeguard public health.

Sanitation and hygiene interventions will prioritise expanding access to safe, gender-responsive, and inclusive sanitation facilities through construction, rehabilitation, desludging, and sludge management. Hygiene promotion and behaviour change initiatives will be implemented in close collaboration with communities, alongside the provision of hygiene and menstrual hygiene management supplies for women and girls. Solid waste management and environmental sanitation activities will improve living conditions and reduce health risks.

WASH programming will be implemented in coordination with relevant authorities to support alignment with national systems and standards. Strengthening the capacity of local WASH committees and their government counterparts will enhance sustainability and preparedness. Emergency preparedness, disease prevention and climate adaptation measures will be integrated across interventions to strengthen resilience and mitigate the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

In 2026, energy and environment interventions will focus on ensuring safe, reliable and sustainable access to household energy for refugees and asylum-seekers, while reducing environmental degradation and strengthening community resilience in hosting areas. The response will prioritize reducing reliance on harmful coping strategies, particularly firewood collection, which exposes households—especially women and children—to heightened protection risks.

Partners will scale up access to clean and energy-efficient household solutions, including the provision of fuel assistance to highly vulnerable households and the fabrication and distribution of improved cooking stoves for households and institutions. These interventions will reduce fuel consumption, indoor air pollution and pressure on natural resources. Renewable energy solutions will continue to be expanded, including solarization of water systems, health facilities, schools and community spaces, to ensure reliable service delivery, lower operational costs and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Environmental restoration will remain a key pillar of the response through reforestation, afforestation and agroforestry initiatives involving both refugee and host communities. Activities will include seedling production and distribution, landscape rehabilitation and training on sustainable natural resource management, contributing to improved soil fertility, climate resilience and food security. Capacity-building initiatives will support refugees and host community members to acquire skills in energy-efficient stove production, briquette manufacturing and energy conservation, creating green livelihood opportunities linked to environmental sustainability.

Interventions will be implemented in close coordination with government counterparts, NGOs, the private sector and community structures to promote community-led resource management, sustainability and alignment with national environmental and energy priorities.

Refugee women open successful tailoring shop inUm Rakuba Camp © UNHCR/Althea Gonzales

Partnership and Coordination

The Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF) is a coordination and information-sharing platform for UN agencies, international and national NGOs and is chaired by the Commission of Refugees (COR) and UNHCR. The RCF provides strategic guidance to the country refugee response by harnessing the expertise and complementarities of its members. At the national level, the RCF is supported by the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), an elected body of RCF representatives that provides dedicated, strategic support to identify priority needs and gaps and to define responses. The Protection Technical Advisory Group (TAG) delivers strategic and technical advice at the national level to support refugee protection response, ensuring that the overall response strategy adequately accounts for protection concerns, including those related to GBV and child protection. At the state-level, Refugee Working Groups (RWGs) lead and coordinate the sector-level operational response.

UNHCR leads the implementation of the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) in line with guidance set out in the UNHCR-OCHA Joint Note on Mixed Situations: Coordination in Practice (2014) and in close coordination with the IASC architecture for internal displacement. This collaboration strengthens the quality and timeliness of responses in mixed displacement settings and will build on achievements in previous years for a coordinated, effective, and efficient response.

Annex 1 – Country Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Type	Requirements in US$
Almanar Voluntary Organization (AMVO)	NNGO	13,694,655
Alsalam Organization for Rehabilitation and Development (AORD)	NNGO	1,945,974
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)	INGO	1,132,900
Care International (CARE)	INGO	7,646,898
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	UN	495,152
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	UN	14,858,550
Medical Teams International (MTI)	NNGO	1,100,770
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	INGO	20,362,000
Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS)	NNGO	4,442,312
Plan International	INGO	5,559,000
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	UN	12,727,996
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	UN	172,703,197
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	UN	83,373,504
World Food Programme (WFP)	UN	148,347,164
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	INGO	1,125,280
World Health Organization (WHO)	UN	17,671,600
World Vision (WVI)	INGO	19,507,370
		Total: 526,694,321

Annex 2 – Country Monitoring Framework

Sector		Indicator	Target
	Protection	# of persons receiving individual protection services (cash or in-kind)	304,479
		# of women, girls and boys participating in awareness raising activities on community protection issues	347,000
		# of asylum seekers and refugees individually registered	202,483
		# of identity documents issued to refugees and asylum-seekers	10,000
	Child Protection	# UASC receiving appropriate interim or long-term alternative care	3,550
	Gender-Based Violence	# of women and girls who participated in targeted empowerment activities as part of GBV prevention programmes	28,155
		# of persons receiving MHPSS service	21,320
		# of women and girls who participated in targeted empowerment activities as part of GBV prevention programmes	28,155
	Education	# of children provided with essential teaching, learning and recreational materials (student kits)	80,000
		# of girls and boys, including children with disabilities, accessing formal and non-formal education	80,000
		# of tertiary scholarship provided	200
	Public Health& Nutrition	# of children that received MAM treatment (TSFP)	3,381
		# of children that received SAM treatment	40,903
		# of deliveries attended by a skilled attendant	23,803
		# of health staff trained/re-trained on different health topics	1,239
		# of mental health consultations conducted	19,594
	Food Security	# of people who receive a 70% ration	574,141
	Livelihoods	# of people receiving business entrepreneurship/vocational skills training	12,294
		# of people receiving agricultural support	14,500
	Shelter & NFI	# of households that received emergency shelter kits	22,200
		# of households receiving transitional and durable shelter (cash or in-kind)	5,900
	WASH	# of litres of water provided per person per day	20
	Energy & Environment	# of refugee households who received cooking fuel per month	7,780
		# of hectares of trees planted	1,000
		# of persons trained on the use of clean energy sources	1,622