

# Mixed Movements Update (Eritrean and Ethiopian)

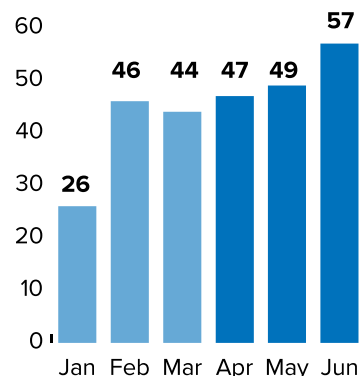
April-June 2021

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## Introduction

Sudan is a country of origin, destination and transit on the migratory route from the Horn of Africa to Europe (mainly through the Central Mediterranean route) and other destinations. An estimated 50 per cent of refugees arriving in Shagara move out of the camps within two months of their arrival. UNHCR's response focuses on persons in need of international protection who make up the majority of those moving onward towards Northern Africa and eventually Europe. UNHCR, along with other concerned agencies, supports the Government efforts to address the risks associated with their irregular movement, including through the dedicated National Committee for Combatting Human Trafficking (NCCT).

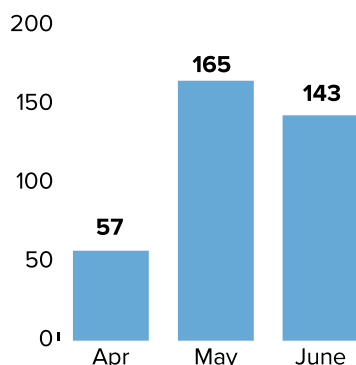
## Victims of Trafficking accommodated in Kassala Safehouse



VOT (Victim of Trafficking) in the East are assisted by UNHCR in East Sudan and partners and are accommodated in the safe house, where they are provided with varied assistance, including legal aid, psychosocial support, health and other services such as family reunification and access to durable solutions.

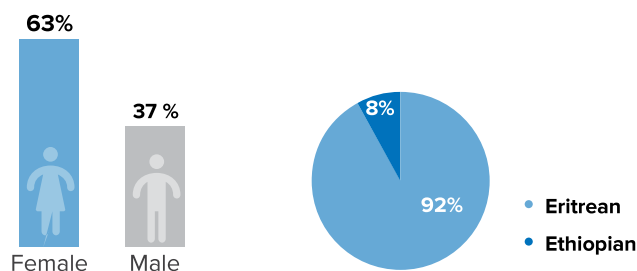
## PoCs identified in CTU/Detention Khartoum

(as of 2 June 2021)

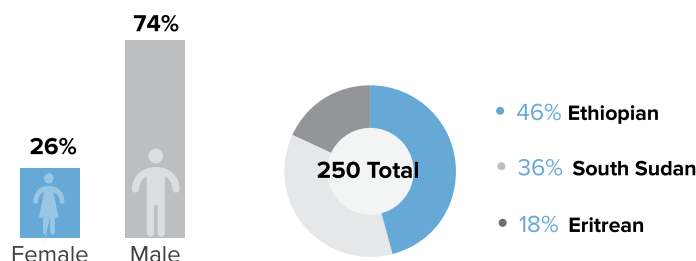


UNHCR through implementing partner Alwatif and COR perform regular joint detention monitoring to identify refugees and asylum seekers and facilitate their access to legal assistance, registration, refugee status determination and other services as needed.

## Gender and Country of Origin VOTs in Safehouse



## Gender and Country of Origin CTU/Detention

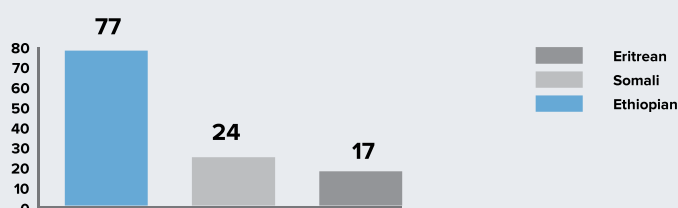


The groups encountered in detention consist mainly of Eritreans and Ethiopians who were intercepted by the Counter Trafficking Unit in and around Khartoum and were transferred to the Alien Department as victims of human trafficking/smuggling due for deportation. South Sudanese often find themselves in detention for a lack of proper documentation.

All are identified through detention monitoring undertaken by UNHCR partner Al Awatif. Monitoring of detention facilities to establish if detainees express a fear of return or other protection needs is a key component of UNHCR's work to protect POCs caught in Mixed Movements.

## Increase of Arrest and Detention in Gedaref State

Over the past two months (May-June), several groups of Eritrean, Ethiopian and Somali nationals have been arrested and detained in Gedaref state (as below graph). UNHCR through its legal partner SOD intervenes in support of cases seeking asylum in Sudan.



## Highlights

### Reported expulsions/interceptions:

- In April no cases were reported.
- In May, a total of 24 individuals from Ethiopia (4 f, 9 m) and Eritrea (10 f, 1 m) were intercepted in Northern State when trying to cross the border to Libya.
- In June, a group of 11 Ethiopians (9m, 2 f) were intercepted in the desert in Northern state, with some of them being in need of hospitalization. Another mixed group of 11 persons from Eritrea and Ethiopia were intercepted. In addition, 35 Sudanese expelled from Libya were awaiting transportation out of the Triangle area close to Dongola.

### Trafficking Incidents East Sudan:

- In April 2021, two eritrean refugee girls from Shagarab camp were kidnapped by Rashaida men who lured into employment opportunities. Law enforcement agents were able to timely thwart the trafficking incident and referred the victims to UNHCR and COR.
- In May, 41 PoCs (25 Ethiopians and 16 Eritreans) were caught in trafficking incidents. UNHCR East Sudan intervened jointly with IOM to offer legal assistance.
- June, 118 individuals (77 Ethiopians, 17 Eritreans and 24 Somalis) were arrested on suspicion of Human Smuggling or trafficking at Doka locality. Following joint screening by UNHCR and IOM, it was established that 56 Ethiopians were economic migrants. The remainder received legal aid through UNHCR's partner.

### Joint Mission to Dongola, Northern State:

- In April :UNHCR,IOM, DRC, SRCS undertook a mission to Dongola to gain a better understanding on the situation there. Meetings were held with the Technical Committee on Migration and Anti-Trafficking, the judiciary and other relevant authorities to discuss access to asylum, protection migrants and related challenges. Three possible sites for a migrant shelter/ reception center were visited, as well as the Dongola Central Prison.

**Telling the Real Story project** is ongoing and active in East Sudan and Khartoum. In Khartoum ,a WhatsApp information Service pilot project was launched. It is intended to inform refugees directly on the services available and how to access them. It is planned to expand this service to the East. A new TRS deployee is based in Gedaref.

**Refurbishment and procurement of furniture for the Kassala Special Anti-Trafficking Court.** The Court is now fully functional with capacity to timely respond to trafficking cases and enhancing their access to justice.

## Challenges and Opportunities

- Delays in the final review of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking: delays in the finalization of the plan that covers the years 2021-2022 hampers implementation, since partners fund contributions are timebound for this action. However, NCCT has proposed the launch to take place in mid of July in Khartoum, including which dissemination of the plan in other concerned States.
- Counter-Trafficking Unit/Detention facilities in Khartoum: The detention facility capacity is limited while the Alien Detention center has reached full capacity and is unable to accommodate more inmates. Partners also reported a lack in capacity to provide food, hygiene, and health care, including COVID-19 related materials
- UNHCR/IOM collaboration: With the increase in Refugee and Migrants in East Sudan, UNHCR held a collaboration meeting with IOM to define a corporate framework for cooperation, in line with main UNHCR/IOM MoU. It was agreed that an SOP shall be developed for joint detention monitoring/Intervention. Other areas of collaboration shall include Capacity Building, awareness raising, support to individuals rejected on appeal as well as Research.

