

## Key figures

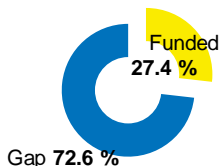
**4.2 M** Persons of Concern

**197,536** refugees and asylum seekers<sup>1</sup>

**3.1 M** IDPs<sup>2</sup>

**940,154** IDP returnees<sup>3</sup>

**152,020** Sudanese who have spontaneously returned from Chad between 2018 to date (verification is ongoing)



Darfur Operation Funding  
December 2022

<sup>1</sup>UNHCR ProGres Report  
<sup>2</sup>&<sup>3</sup> IOM-DTM November 2022

## Key Highlights

**Incidents related to the agricultural season** continued to be reported in December, resulting in clashes between farmers and herders. These incidents include attempted theft of agricultural products, and animals trespassing on farms & destroying crops. The incidents escalated tensions in affected areas, and reportedly led to several casualties. However, there has been a significant overall decline in incidents in North Darfur compared to previous years, and this is in large part attributable to field missions carried out by crop protection committees supported by FAO and UNHCR. These committees have been briefing communities about laws and customs related to the agricultural season and mitigating disputes between farmers and herders. It is hoped that a series of activities can be implemented during the following months to better prepare the relevant authorities for the 2023/24 agricultural season and to create conditions for more peaceful agricultural seasons in the future.

**Intercommunal clashes between the Rezeigat and Daju communities** from 22 – 23 December 2022 displaced 2,547 households (12,930 individuals in South Darfur and some to East Darfur)<sup>i</sup>. Many of the displaced need urgent humanitarian assistance, including food, emergency shelter, WASH, health, and nutrition. The Government of Sudan has distributed some relief items to those displaced but there remain gaps. UNHCR participated in the interagency assessment missions led by OCHA to plan for a response. As part of the reconciliation initiatives, a cessation of hostilities agreement was negotiated and signed in early January 2023. It is critical to ensure all groups are included in the implementation of the commitments in the agreement.

## Refugee Protection

Despite critical funding gaps, the operation conducted **routine protection activities**, including registration, child protection, GBV referrals, psychosocial support, awareness-raising campaigns, remote and physical protection monitoring, identification of persons with special needs (PSNs), and legal aid in East, South, North and Central Darfur.

UNHCR, in partnership with AHA & ALIGHT, **distributed assistive devices**, including crutches and wheelchairs, to 147 of the most vulnerable refugees and IDPs in camps and settlements while commemorating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in North and East Darfur.

**In-kind & Cash Distribution for Personal Hygiene Kits (PHKs):** 1,709 refugee women and girls of reproductive age received cash assistance to purchase personal hygiene items

in Um Shalaya refugee camp, Central Darfur and El Fasher, North Darfur. The distribution was conducted jointly with Blue Nile Mashreg Bank with assistance of COR. The operation resorted to cash transfers after receiving feedback in which beneficiaries proposed cash for personal hygiene kits (PHK) to give them a choice in purchasing items. However, inflation has affected the cost of many sanitary items, negatively impacting refugees. In East Darfur, UNHCR, in



*PHK distribution in South Darfur in 2022*

coordination with UNFPA, distributed 700 PHKs to refugee and host community women and girls in schools in Al Nimir. In West Darfur, UNHCR collaborated with Ministry of Social Development to launch dignity kit distribution across IDP gathering points in El Geneina for 3,000 women and girls. In-kind distribution is ongoing in South Darfur.

## Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and IDP Returnee Protection



*Training Workshop on customary mediation in West Darfur*

UNHCR conducted three **trainings on Customary Mediation for Effective Reconciliation** in Kulbus, Jebel Moon and Beida localities, West Darfur. The training targeted Native Administration, including members of Peace and Reconciliation Committees from nomadic and settled communities and youth and women representatives. Topics presented were on root causes of conflict in Darfur, resolution of inter-communal disputes, effective mediation skills, traditional mechanisms for conflict resolution and early warning systems, humanitarian protection and the legal framework for international protection.

**Household intention survey in West Darfur:** In response to a relocation/return plan proposed by the West Darfur State Government, under which IDPs currently living in gathering sites in El Geneina would relocate to their previous places of displacement (predominately Krinding 1, Krinding 2 and Sultan House IDP camps) or return to their villages of origin, the Site Management Working Group developed a household-level intentions survey as well as tools for complementary Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions. Results from this participatory exercise will provide insight into IDPs' perspectives on relocation/return and enable humanitarian actors to ensure that their preferences, concerns, and priorities are reflected in any subsequent planning.

**Community-based protection networks (CBPNs):** Putting the community at the centre of our work is essential for our response activities, community-based solutions & promotion of social cohesion. UNHCR & partners continue to support & empower the 146 community-based structures established across Darfur. In December, UNHCR trained CBPNs from 5 IDP camps in Zalingei town, Central Darfur, on community-based protection topics. CBPNs also received furniture support for community centres and sports equipment to promote recreational activities. In East Darfur, the Crop Protection Networks (CPNs) peacefully resolved 47 out of the 71 reported incidents with support from joint security forces. In addition, UNHCR supported the CPNs with 25 mobile phones to enhance communication among themselves and information sharing to resolve disputes on time.

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<sup>i</sup> IOM Emergency Event Tracking (EET) updates on January 9, 2023, estimates a total number of 12,930 IDPs are seeking refuge in Nyala Shama (34%), Beliel (30%), Nitega (14%), and Mershing (10%) localities in South Darfur, and Yassin locality (12%) in East Darfur.