

## SUDAN SITUATION

11 May 2023



UNHCR's Egypt Representative met with Sudanese new arrivals in Aswan as part an interagency needs assessment exercise to respond to the new influx to Egypt from Sudan. © UNHCR/Sebastian Herwig

### Highlights

Clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have entered a fourth week and continued for the 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive day on 10 May.

The number of people internally displaced by the Sudan fighting has more than doubled in the past week. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#) more than 700,000 people are now internally displaced by the violence as of 9 May (compared to 340,000 on 2 May). Before the fighting began, some 3.7 million people were already internally displaced in Sudan, mainly in Darfur.

More than 164,000 refugees and refugee returnees have fled Sudan as of 10 May.

The World Food Programme (WFP) [says](#) it will need nearly 13,000 tons of food to reach some 384,000 people across the states of Gedaref, Gezira, Kassala and White Nile. WFP currently has some 8,000 tons of food stocks in Port Sudan. In the coming days, the agency is expecting the arrival of two ships carrying food and supplies to treat moderate acute malnutrition. Since restarting food distributions last week, WFP says more than 35,500 people have been reached across Gedaref and Kassala states, with distributions also underway in White Nile.

WFP also [warned](#) that an additional 2 - 2.5 million people in Sudan are expected to slip into hunger in the coming months as a result of the ongoing violence in the country. This would take acute food insecurity in Sudan to record levels, with more than 19 million people affected, two fifths of the population.

In view of the rising humanitarian needs due to the raging conflict in Sudan, the European Union launched a [Humanitarian Air Bridge](#) transporting critical supplies to humanitarian partners in Port Sudan. The 30 tonnes of essential items, including water, sanitation and hygiene as well as shelter equipment were transported from the warehouses of the United Nations in Dubai to Port Sudan.

On 10 May, the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Africa in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations (DPPA-DPO), [warned](#) the UN Security Council that the impact of ongoing violence among rival military parties in Sudan is threatening to derail bilateral political progress with neighbouring South Sudan, worsen the fragile humanitarian situation, and pose fresh risks.

## Resources

- The UNHCR *Operational Data Portal* (ODP) for the Sudan Situation is an information and data sharing platform, which provides daily updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan's neighbouring countries: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation>
- The UNHCR *HELP site for refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan* provides information to individuals seeking information or support inside Sudan (both in [English](#) and [Arabic](#)).

**OVERVIEW:** Countries neighbouring Sudan impacted by this new emergency are already hosting large refugee and internally displaced populations. The majority remain severely underfunded. Hosting countries will need additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance. Initial assessments show that the new asylum-seekers, refugees, refugee returnees and other arrivals' most urgent needs identified to date are water, food, shelter, health, and core relief items. In terms of protection, the current priority activities are the registration of new arrivals and ensuring that mechanisms are in place to try and prevent and respond to gender-based violence and ensure alternative care services for refugee children.

 **164,436**  
Estimated newly arrived individuals

 **114,069**  
Total newly arrived refugees/asylum seekers

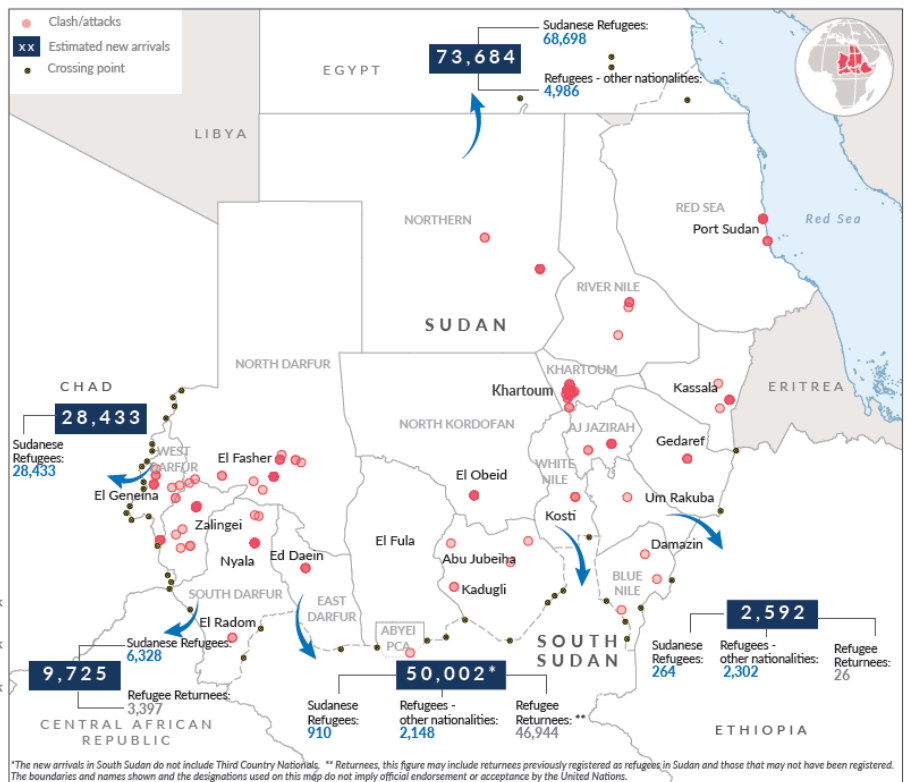
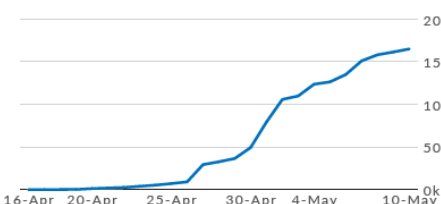
### Arrivals by population type

Sudanese Refugees - 104.6k    Refugees - other nationalities - 9.4k    Returnees 50.3k

### Estimated gender breakdown of new arrivals

Female 49%    Male 51%

### Daily arrival trends



\*The new arrivals in South Sudan do not include Third Country Nationals. \*\* Returnees, this figure may include returnees previously registered as refugees in Sudan and those that may not have been registered. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

## Situation and Operational Response

### SUDAN

Clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have continued for 26 consecutive days on 10 May.

The Sudanese Ministry of Health reported that 504 people have been killed and 5,127 injured since 15 April, of which 199 deaths and 3,157 injuries were in Khartoum. However, in West Darfur, according to reports from various sources at least 450 people died during the violent clashes in El Geneina and surrounding areas.

All UNHCR staff are accounted for with 16 international staff remaining in Sudan. Since the outbreak of conflict, 160 national UNHCR staff have relocated to safer places in the country, while 28 national staff have left Sudan.

Mercy Corps conducted a rapid market access survey the first week of May in nine locations across Sudan (Khartoum, Jazirah, Sennar, Gedaref, Kassala, El Obeid, Diling, Kadugli, and Nyala), which revealed a significant surge in prices of essential commodities, with imported items like wheat flour, oil, and tomato paste being particularly scarce. The survey also found an average of 134 per cent increase in prices of consumer goods since the outbreak of the conflict. In Khartoum, the most affected consumer goods include fuel (prices increased by 1,251%), gas cylinder (316%), sorghum (233%), and bread (140%). The survey also found that transportation costs have increased, varying by location between 50-300%.

Internet connectivity continues to be severely challenging in the country making communications difficult.

#### Operational updates

The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group has indicated that internally displaced persons (IDPs) who sought safety in eastern Sudan would be the initial focus of inter-agency interventions.

UNHCR convened a meeting on 10 May with project partners across the country. UNHCR noted that while it is planning for an emergency response to the current situation in Sudan, programmes in more secure areas should continue in line with the multi-year strategy. A review of all project partnership agreements will take place to assess whether activities originally planned can still be implemented given the current situation. Some resources will be re-programmed to support the crisis response plan. Partners reiterated operational challenges that are hampering their ability to deliver such as lack of access to cash, shortage of fuel, rising prices of rent, transportation, and goods, and inability of suppliers to bring in materials into the refugee camps, among others.

#### Updates by location

##### Gedaref

On 10 May, the Wali of Gedaref, together with the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) held a meeting with UN agencies and NGOs to discuss the current situation and the emergency response. The Wali provided updates on Government support for the displaced being accommodated in youth hostels and the faculty of medicine in Gedaref. The Wali highlighted that the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Social Welfare are working with the Central Bank of Sudan to resolve the cash shortage through the branch in Port Sudan.

In Um Gulja, the site of a previously closed refugee camp to which urban refugees have self-relocated, a total of 3,745 individuals have been registered/verified; more people continue to arrive every day. The International Society for Better Health Access continues to provide hot meals to refugees and asylum-seekers and is distributing flour, sugar and oil. Asmlash-Grant Foundation has also donated 35 cartons of milk for children. Water is currently being trucked while UNHCR is working with partners on more sustainable solutions for water supply. Medical Teams International is running a mobile clinic to provide health services, with 50-70 consultations being conducted per day.



Assessments on gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), as well as the identification of persons with specific needs (PSN) and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are all ongoing. About 10 Best Interests Assessments were conducted for UASC. Additionally, a group of security personnel in Um Gulja were trained on refugee rights and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, in collaboration with COR and legal aid partner, Mutawinat. UNHCR also provided capacity-building training to 35 refugee community representatives.

### **Jazirah**

UNHCR's government counterpart the Commission on Refugees (COR) informed UNHCR that the State government has asked the newly arrived refugees and asylum-seekers who are currently being accommodated in schools in Medani to leave by 12 May, as national exams will begin on 13 May. UNHCR and COR are working to urgently put in place logistics for relocation and promptly inform the refugees and asylum seekers about the assembly and departure points.

### **White Nile**

UNHCR is preparing for an interagency assessment of refugees in five camps (Um Sangour, Al Alagaya, Khor Alwarel, Aljameya, and Jouri), scheduled for next week. Additionally, registration/verification exercises are ongoing for the self-relocated arrivals. UNHCR's partner, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, is setting up 15 additional communal shelters to accommodate arrivals. The arrivals have been supported with the distribution of sleeping mats and blankets. Distribution of personal hygiene kits to women and girls, part of the office's regular activities prior to the outbreak of conflict, is also ongoing.

### **Blue Nile**

UNHCR and COR verified and registered 36 households/127 new arrivals from Ethiopia belonging to the Gumuz ethnic group who had been relocated from the Mukla border entry point. Within this group, 38 persons with specific needs and other protection needs have been identified.

In Camp 6, the lack of food distribution continues to result in increasingly agitated groups of refugees seeking information.

Education partner Windle Trust International (WTI) is administering end-of-year examinations from 9 to 15 May. UNHCR visited the school and is following up with WTI to ensure there are adequate examination material.

UNHCR convened a meeting with project partners COR, Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Mutawinat, WTI, and CAFA Development Organization on urgent protection issues such as the increase in domestic violence incidents, conflict in the camp, drop in school attendance, women and children working in cotton fields, and impact of the ongoing crisis on the delivery of services.

### **South Darfur**

The security situation remains tense with sporadic shooting reported in Nyala town on 9 May during the day and heavy shooting during the night. Sporadic shooting continued until the morning of 10 May.

### **Central Darfur**

The situation in Zalengi is tense, with clashes and looting reported to have resumed on 8 May.

### **East Darfur**

The situation is currently calm but unpredictable. WFP has indicated that it will resume food distribution activities in the state. In El Neem IDP camp, 480 report cards were distributed to students by the Parent Teacher Association.

## SOUTH SUDAN

The cumulative number of arrivals recorded as of 9 May had increased to 8,053 households consisting of 47,901 individuals, consisting of South Sudanese returnees, Eritreans, and Sudanese.

### **Maban (Upper Nile)**

New arrivals: As of 9 May, a total of 1,740 individuals (309 households) arrived at Joda border point and were registered by UNHCR and partner HDC. Cumulatively, 41,701 individuals have arrived and been recorded at the Joda border point.

There is a decrease in the number of arrivals compared to the first three weeks of the conflict. UNHCR has started vulnerability screening together with IOM. About 30 households comprised of 135 persons with special needs were transported by bus from the Reception Center at the border to the transit center in Renk.

Transit Centre: On 9 May, 1,268 individuals (245 HH) were received at the Transit Centre. RRC has started the registration of South Sudanese returnees by state to facilitate their onward movements.

Refugees and asylum-seekers: UNHCR conducted an exercise at the Transit Centre to register asylum-seekers and refugees ready to go to the refugee camps in Maban. A total of 465 individuals (303 HH) have expressed their willingness to go to the camps.

Another transfer of refugees and asylum-seekers from both Renk and Paloich to Maban is scheduled to take place on 11 May. UNHCR continues to work with different partners in Doro camp on the site for the new arrivals in terms of plot allocation, extension of WASH facilities and other basic services to allow the population to relocate out of the Reception Center in Maban in the coming days.

Donor mission: On 9 May, an ECHO delegation visited the Joda border where they met with local authorities and new arrivals at the reception border. The delegation also visited the transit center where they held discussions with service partners for WASH, Nutrition, Health, Protection, etc. and with returnees. The delegation also met with the Renk County commissioner.

### Service Delivery

As of 8 May, a total of 1,821 consultations have been conducted across the two clinics at the Joda Border Reception Center and Renk Transit Center, of which 22 urgent medical cases have been referred to the Renk County Hospital.

### **Malakal (Upper Nile)**

On 9 May, UNHCR partner Humanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC) and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) reported arrival of 291 refugee-returnee (41 HH) from Sudan to Melut, Longechuk, Maiwut, Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir counties, all of whom returned through the Renk border point. Cumulatively, 4,079 individuals (637 HH) have arrived in Malakal since the onset of influx from Sudan.

UNHCR partner CAO reported arrival of 687 individuals over the past few days to the war hit Tonga and Bap areas of Panykang county. UNHCR will conduct a mission to Tonga on 11 May to verify and look into the possibility of putting a border monitoring system in place there. Access to Panykang has just become possible.

### **Bentiu (Unity)**

On 9 May, UNHCR and partner Hope Restoration South Sudan recorded the arrival of 31 individuals (5 HH with 22 females and 9 males) to Leer and Mayendit counties. The five families came to Unity State through Panakuach border point. The families mentioned Leer and Mayendit counties as their destinations and expressed relief for returning home safely.

In consideration of current extreme vulnerability of returnees from Sudan, whose host families are almost equally vulnerable in Rotriak and other destinations in Unity State, the State Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) in Bentiu has recommended to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to prioritize the immediate provision of essential lifesaving humanitarian assistance, especially food, shelter materials, medical services, non-food items, clean water, hygiene and sanitation for a period of six months (May-October).

The ICCG in Bentiu is planning to conduct a rapid assessment to establish details for possible response to enable reintegration for those returnees from Sudan who have indicted Rotriak as their destination. IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) will also do a survey of the population integration to understand where people have settled and the impact of the reintegration pattern.

### **Northern Bahr El Ghazal**

Recent arrivals from El Obeid, North Kordofan have reported high transportation fare and lack of food as a major challenge facing returnees on their way to South Sudan.

## **CHAD**

### **Registration**

As of 10 May, the total number of refugees counted has reached 27,774 individuals (7,717 households) in Chad. They are located mainly in Ouaddaï, Sila, and Wadi Fira. Of these, 12,473 individuals (3,664 households) were pre-registered.

### **Coordination**

The third coordination meeting on the new Sudanese emergency in Chad was held in N'Djamena on 9 May. The relocation of refugees from the borders to five existing camps will start on 13 May. The camps – Gaga in Ouddai; Goz Amir and Djabal in Sila; and Mile and Kounoungou in Wafi Fira – are located at about 90-120 km from the border villages where the refugees arrived.

### **Protection**

Between 6-9 May, UNHCR partner HIAS has conducted the following Protection activities:

- Awareness sessions on the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation (SEA), gender-based violence (GBV) and children's rights in the Ouaddai sites for 1,403 refugees.
- About 109 people with specific needs were identified, including people living with disabilities, elderly people, children at risk, lactating women and GBV survivors. The identified cases were referred for medical and psychosocial follow-up.
- Establishment of two Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) in Koufroune. Four volunteers were deployed as facilitators to supervise the children.
- Three peace awareness sessions were organized in Koufroune, Dize Berte and Goungour with some 1,460 participants to promote peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution.

### **Core Relief Items (CRI)**

A total of 3,000 refugee households have received core relief items from UNHCR and UNICEF in the sites of Koufroune, Midjiguita, Goungour, Dize Berte, and Labandarak between 2-8 May. The CRI kits included soap, tarps, jerry cans, kitchen kits, mats, and blankets.

With the support of International Humanitarian City (IHC) UNHCR airlifted 112 tons of CRI consisting of mats, kitchen set, mosquito nets, jerry cans, tarpaulins, solar lamps and buckets from the UNHCR stockpile in Dubai to N'Djamena.

### **Food Distribution**

As of 10 May, WFP had distributed food to 18,124 new Sudanese refugees, including 15,501 in Ouaddaï and 2,623 in Sila.

### **Health**

Medical consultations: About 903 medical consultations were conducted (91 in Ouaddaï and 812 in Sila), bringing the total number of consultations to 6,315. The Agency for Economic and Social Development (ADES) activated a mobile clinic on 1 May.

Nutrition: A total of 1,338 children aged 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition during the reporting period, bringing the total number of screened children to 2,858 as of 10 May. This included 423 identified cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 127 cases of acute malnutrition (SAM) who were referred to the relevant medical services.

Reproductive health: A total of 36 assisted deliveries were recorded as of 10 May (28 in Ouaddai and 8 in Sila). UNFPA provided UNHCR with 81 boxes filled with reproductive health kits, which were sent to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and deployed to the Koufroune site to support the mobile clinics.

Vaccination: MSF started vaccination against measles at the Goungour site on 8 May. A total of 1,126 children have been vaccinated against measles and underwent deworming treatment; 397 children have received vitamin A supplements.

Mental health: 8 cases received counselling and were referred for medical assistance.

### **WASH**

- 70 latrines with tarpaulin walls were constructed in Koufroune, Midjiguilta and Dize by Care International.
- Three additional boreholes were constructed in Koufroune, Dize and Midjiguilta by UNICEF.
- 100 cubic meters of water per day are distributed in Koufroune, Midjiguilta, Dize Berte and Goungour sites by IRC with the support of two tracks provided by UNHCR.

### **Shelter**

On 9 May, UNHCR conducted a mission to Kounoungou in the Guereda areas to assess relocation space and found that 142 shelters could be established. Additional space was identified in a training centre which could possibly be extended with four hangars.

## **ETHIOPIA**

Between 21 April and 10 May, according to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), more than 18,000 people (64+ nationalities) have arrived in Metema. Of these, the largest group are Ethiopian nationals (47%), followed by Sudanese (17%), Eritreans (11%), and Turks (8%). A decrease in arrivals has been reported in the last few days, potentially due to the intensified fighting in Sudan that is rendering access to borders more challenging.

As of 8 May, 2,592 people (77% Eritreans, 10% Sudanese, and 11% South Sudanese) have sought international protection including 26 Ethiopian refugees returning from Sudan. Of these, 1,953 crossed through Metema in the Amhara Region, and 441 entered via the Kurmuk border point in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region.

In Metema, the verification of refugees and asylum-seekers has continued, with a total of 2,126 (95% Eritreans, 2% Sudanese) verified so far. This number includes 28 Ethiopian returnees with refugee status in Sudan.

In Kurmuk, the verification of new arrivals has begun using biometrics. However, poor network coverage is affecting the process and the registration team plans to use offline verification methods while the problems persist.

### **Protection**

In Metema, eight persons with specific needs (PSNs), including pregnant women and people with chronic diseases, were identified, bringing the total number of PSNs identified to 99 individuals. UNHCR and partner RaDo will be following up on the individual cases that need urgent support. A total of 37 individuals were registered at the protection desk in Metema on 10 May. UNHCR supported the identification of 20 girls and women to receive dignity kits from UNFPA, including GBV survivors, four Sudanese women who arrived on 9 May, and women with disabilities.

In Kurmuk, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) is facilitating free call services for family tracing and reunification. Each person is given three minutes to communicate with their relatives worldwide.

### **Health**

In Metema, the main challenges in the provision of health services include lack of immunization for babies at the clinic managed by the Emergency Medical Team, shortage of ambulances, and lack of adequate operating space for the Emergency Medical Team deployed by the Ministry of Health.

In Kurmuk, UNHCR provided the 10-member Emergency Medical Team (EMT) with a refrigerator, two ventilators and a divider to be used at the Metema entry point clinic.

The protection assessment conducted in Kurmuk on 9 May revealed an urgent need to refer new arrivals with chronic illnesses, including cancer patients who previously underwent chemotherapy treatment to health facilities that are better equipped.

### **Food and Core Relief Items (CRIs)**

In Metema, UNHCR partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) has been distributing wet feeding for verified refugees and asylum-seekers since 4 May, providing three hot meals to an average of, currently, 600 people per day.

In Kurmuk, nutrition screening is ongoing for all children under the age of five, lactating mothers and pregnant women. Supplementary vitamins were distributed by partner GOAL for both moderate and acute malnutrition. An assessment undertaken at Kurmuk revealed a dire need of clothes for the new arrivals, both for children and adults.

### **Shelter and WASH**

In Metema, construction of 25 emergency shelters at the Transit Center is ongoing, while the erection of five communal hangars was completed. Construction of two blocks of emergency showers were completed and are ready for use. Two roto tanks arrived from Gondar at the Metema center; partner IHS started the water trucking and fixing the taps.

In a meeting on 10 May, UNHCR and government officials agreed that the relocation of refugees and asylum-seekers from the immigration site to the new Transit Center would start this week. Local officials expressed concern about the overcrowding of the site currently occupied by refugees and asylum-seekers. They also noted the shortage of water in Metema town, and the related potential disease outbreaks due to lack of hygiene and overpopulation of the town.

In Kurmuk, the relocation of new arrivals to Tsore camp is planned on 12 May with IOM providing transportation. The construction of two communal hangars is ongoing in Tsore camp.

## **EGYPT**

Since the outbreak of the fighting in Sudan on 15 April, a total of 81,172 individuals have crossed into Egypt from Sudan as of 11 May, including 76,135 Sudanese and 5,037 third-country nationals (TCN), according to information received from the Egypt Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

Over 2,500 newly arrived asylum-seekers, the vast majority of whom are Sudanese nationals, have approached UNHCR's reception center and call center in Cairo between 18 April and 10 May seeking international protection. UNHCR will extend its working hours from 12 May to meet the increased registration demand.



A joint UNHCR and Egypt MFA field mission on 10 May included a visit to Karkar Bus Station in Aswan, the first major public transport hub that all buses transit through after crossing the border points. The delegation met with the Deputy Governor of Aswan overseeing the services provided. New arrivals from Sudan received water and food, including hot meals. Services at the bus station include a mobile clinic and a pharmacy established by the Ministry of Health and a child-friendly space operated by UNICEF and Save the Children. The Deputy Governor noted that the bus station has provided services since the onset of the crisis and that they will continue to do so for as long as is needed. UNHCR thanked the Anglican Church for supporting the new arrivals with food and accommodation and underscored the great support provided by faith-based organizations generally during the refugee response.

During the mission, the MFA reiterated the need to support host communities as well as more durable support such as for hospitals and other health facilities, schools, and public spaces including parks, which will benefit both refugee and host communities.

## Sudan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan

UNHCR and partners are finalizing a **Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan**, which will include the inter-agency response and budget requirements in the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.

In the meantime, a preliminary summary document has been produced to preview the planning figures and overall budget requirements: [Sudan Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan – Preliminary Summary & Inter-Agency Requirements \(May-October 2023\)](#)

The planning currently covers an outflow of some **860,000 refugees and returnees from Sudan** and will require an estimated budget of **USD 445 million** to support the displaced from May until October 2023.

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