

SUDAN SITUATION

29 August – 4 September 2023



15-year-old Nyakuma waiting for registration upon return to her home country South Sudan after fleeing conflict in Khartoum. © UNHCR/Sarah Jane Velasco

Highlights

The ongoing clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that started on 15 April 2023 have continued for 142 days as of 4 September.

On 4 September, UNHCR issued a press release to call attention to the staggering humanitarian needs of the Sudan emergency response, for which UNHCR and 64 humanitarian and national civil society organizations are appealing for USD 1 billion to provide essential aid and protection to over 1.8 million people projected to arrive in five neighbouring countries by the end of 2023, fleeing ongoing conflict in Sudan:

[\\$1 billion now required to support millions fleeing Sudan conflict as needs soar.](#)

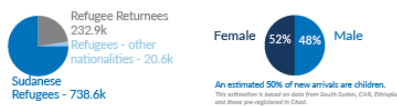
UNHCR video: [*This is what is happening at the Renk Transit Centre in South Sudan where over 240,000 people have arrived, fleeing conflict in Sudan.*](#)

The first UN inter-agency [cross-border missions](#) from Chad into West Darfur, Sudan, have successfully delivered more than 1,600 NFI items to Kulbus, West Darfur from Farchana, Chad.

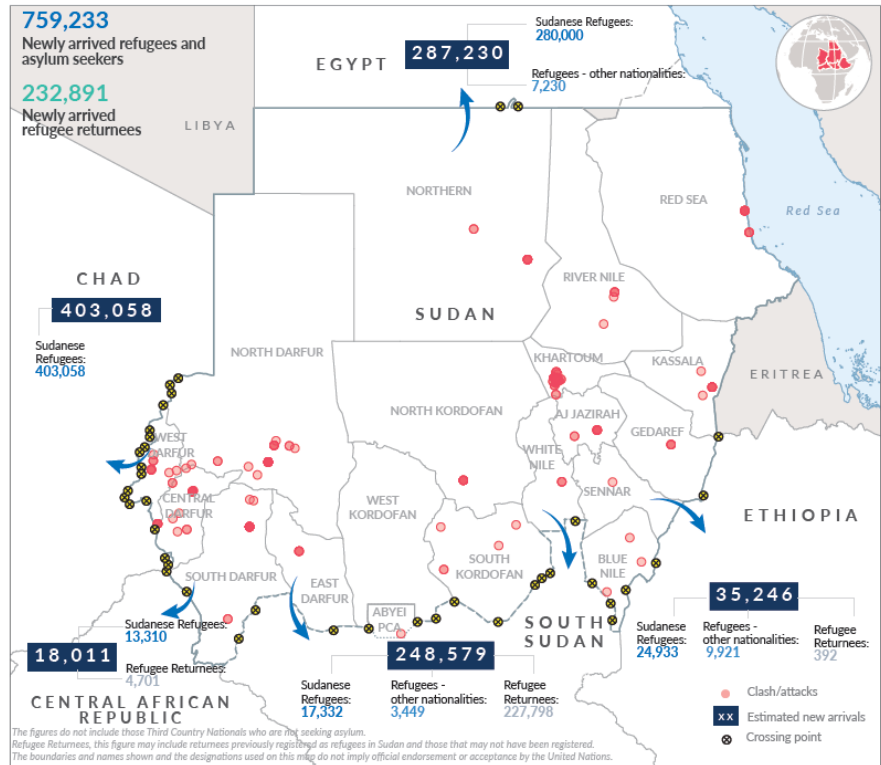
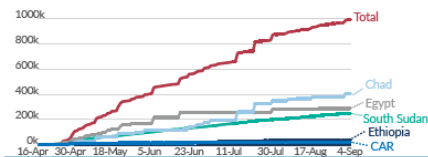
OVERVIEW: There are now nearly 5 million forcibly displaced due to the recent outbreak of conflict in Sudan, including 3.8 million internally and getting closer every day to 1 million in neighbouring countries. Sudan was already hosting large refugee populations before being impacted by this new emergency and, like hosting countries, needs additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance, including for those who have been secondarily displaced within the country. Urgent needs include water, food, shelter, health, and core relief items. The current priority activities are the registration of new arrivals, relocation away from border areas, identification of especially vulnerable families and persons with specific needs, and putting mechanisms in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and ensure alternative care services for unaccompanied refugee children.

4,981,372 Forcibly Displaced
3,801,754 IDPs in Sudan
992,124 Newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers and returnees
187,494 Self-relocated Refugees in Sudan

Arrivals by population and estimated gender type



New arrivals from Sudan



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- As of 27 August, the [IOM DTM \(Displacement Tracking Matrix\)](#) reports that the total number of internally displaced in Sudan now stands at 3,801,754 persons.
- The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) systemwide scale up for Sudan has been activated for six months until 28 February 2024, aiming to fast-track and front-load the support required to match the scale, complexity, and urgency of the Sudan crisis.
- In Kulbus, West Darfur, 300 households received NFI kits in the first cross-border operation from Chad, carried out by UNHCR through partner Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery (SORR).
- A new passport facility in Port Sudan has been inaugurated, which reportedly can produce up to 6,000 passports per day.
- In Blue Nile State, Kurmuk is stable with no reports of new incidents. The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has imposed new regulations on movement for all UN and NGOs.
- In White Nile State, UNHCR and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) have distributed partial NFI kits across 15 IDP gathering sites in Rabak locality and Khor Ajwal IDP settlement.
- In White Nile State, the mortality rate in the camps has been found to be high, particularly in Al Redis 1&2, Al Jameya, and Um Sangour camps.

Updates by Location

Darfur

In [Central Darfur](#), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has supported community-based protection networks in conducting awareness raising sessions on protection topics (including GBV and child protection), reaching 1,524 individuals across four localities.

In Kulbus, West Darfur, 300 households have so far received NFI kits in the first cross-border operation from Chad, carried out by UNHCR through partner Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery (SORR).

In North Darfur and East Darfur, there is a need to provide assistance to IDPs arriving from Nyala (South Darfur), but there are no available stocks in these States.

Throughout Darfur, some IDPs have started spontaneous returns in areas that are experiencing relative stability among various armed actors. The authorities aim to do proactive patrolling to address conflict situations arising from the agricultural season, but this has proven challenging due to lack of resources.

Port Sudan

On 30 August, the new passport facility in Port Sudan was inaugurated. Reportedly, the facility can produce up to 6,000 passports a day. The Ministry of Interior announced that application procedures would also resume in other states by September. Applications have so far resumed in Dongola, Atbara, Kassala, and Gedaref.

Kordofan States

In Kordofan, the security situation is still tense and unpredictable. In West Kordofan, all UNHCR staff who had remained in El Fula have relocated to different areas following reported lawlessness in previous weeks. UNHCR has assured the refugee community that the agency remains committed to support them remotely.

In El Fula, the native administration reportedly formed a committee to defuse tensions as well as to address the impacts of a looting incident on 16 August and attempt to return the looted properties. Two UNHCR vehicles which were looted from the El Fula office have been returned. Despite the currently calm situation, intercommunal conflict remains a risk.

In South Kordofan, plans are underway with the WASH partner to distribute hygiene kits to 575 women and girls in El Leri refugee settlement.

Blue Nile State

In Blue Nile State, Kurmuk is stable with no reports of new incidents. The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has imposed new regulations on movement for all UN and NGOs, prohibiting movement after 18:30 PM. Permissions from authorities are required for movement outside regular activities. Operations in Camp 6 are not affected.

UNHCR continues to coordinate with UNHCR in Ethiopia on the situation in Benishangul Gumuz. So far, 381 individuals have been received and supported with hot meals. Discussions continue with WFP to ensure new arrivals are supported with food assistance.

White Nile State

UNHCR and partner Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) have distributed 1,030 partial NFI kits across 15 IDP gathering sites in Rabak locality and Khor Ajwal IDP settlement.

Site management activities in White Nile State have commenced with the conduct of a site mapping Kobo tool orientation by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS).

On the refugee response, 100 tents have been set up in Alganaa camp to accommodate refugees. Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and the Sudan Commission for Refugees (COR) have conducted an assessment to potentially accommodate an additional 200 tents in the camp which is currently under process.

Between 24-30 August, a comprehensive vaccination campaign ran across 10 camps and surrounding communities, targeting children aged 6 to 59 months. The campaign also included Vitamin A supplementation, deworming, mid upper arm circumference screening, and provision of ferrous sulphate to pregnant women.

The mortality rate in the camps has been found to be high, particularly in Al Redis 1&2, Al Jameya, and Um Sangour camps. The government is working closely with partners to enhance and strengthen service delivery and response and UNHCR's new health partner started their work as from 1 September.

The situation in Tendalti is being monitored as the area is close to Um Rawaba in North Kordofan.

UNHCR continues to explore Joda as entry/exit point for staff and is coordinating with UNHCR South Sudan and exploring requirements for visas to be issued for international staff in Kosti as a proactive measure.

NFI distribution, registration, and identification and verification of persons with specific needs (PSN) are ongoing. UNHCR is also exploring engagement with the civil registry at state level on the issuance of birth certificates; there are thousands of South Sudanese children among the newly registered refugees without birth certificates.

In Abu Dolou, UNHCR met with the Assistant Commissioner for Refugees (ACOR) to deliver findings of the reassessment of the land proposed by local authorities for the new site.

Gedaref

A five-day training on response to internal displacement concluded on 31 August, reaching 107 participants from local authorities and humanitarian organizations in Gedaref.

UNHCR has ramped up border and protection monitoring.

UNHCR has engaged the Forests National Corporation and host communities in seeking additional land for relocation of refugees in Um Rakuba camp whose tukuls have been damaged because of flooding. The host community has expressed that several conditions are met before any land could be provided for this purpose.

Affected refugees have been relocated to Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) classrooms. UNHCR is also conducting assessments of land for the relocation of refugees from Um Gulja. However, the camps are reaching full capacity and discussions will take place to respond to the relocation of refugees, considering tensions between old and new caseloads.

UNHCR continues with the implementation of CBI for IDPs and is conducting a four-day training on the IDP response as requested by the governor and humanitarian community.

Kassala

UNHCR and health partner Alight have experienced a surge of outpatient consultations in all health facilities and clinics across the refugee camps, which has been attributed to population movements with refugees arriving from Khartoum and conflict areas, as well as the presence of IDPs in some of the camps' vicinity.

Wad Madani (Jazirah State)

On 30 August, UNHCR and legal aid partner Mutawinat organized a workshop focusing on refugee law and human trafficking, targeting 21 participants from judicial and official authorities.

Mutawinat also organized an awareness raising session on refugee law, refugee rights, and gender-based violence, targeting 100 South Sudanese refugees.

UNHCR continues to distribute NFIs through partners, reaching three gathering sites to support persons with specific needs (PSN). Since the beginning of crisis, 7,400 IDPs and 2,700 refugees have been supported.

UNHCR also continues the verification of refugees who have expressed interest to be relocated to Gedaref.

Wadi Halfa (Northern State)

During the last week, UNHCR has been informed by border officials of the arrival of 90 deportees. UNHCR will hold further discussions with HAC, who provided assistance to the deportees through other humanitarian agencies, to gain further insight of the deportees' situation.

Cross-Border Interventions

From Farchana, [Chad](#), the first non-food items bound for Sudan have successfully reached Kulbus, [West Darfur](#) through Guereda border crossing point. The first cross border operation concluded with the distribution of 1,677 NFI kits targeting 8,385 IDPs by UNHCR's partner SORR.

CHAD

Highlights

- A total of 403,058 refugees have been counted by UNHCR in eastern Chad as of 2 September.
- A total of 175,298 individuals (44% of new arrivals) have been relocated to safer locations away from the border through 223 convoys.
- As of 2 September, 28,790 family shelters have been built in the provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila and Wadi Fira.
- Refugees' most urgent needs remain shelter, core relief items, WASH, including access to water, and access to health services.

Relocation

As of 2 September, 175,298 individuals have been relocated through 223 convoys to the existing and new camps in the provinces of Ouaddaï (114,328 individuals), Sila (46,340 individuals) and Wadi Fira (14,630 individuals), bringing the total of new arrivals relocated to 44%.

Protection

As of 3 September, 289 cases of gender-based violence have been reported. Referrals to relevant services are regularly taking place and assistance is provided. The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), with the support of UNHCR and the camp leaders and in collaboration with CRT (*Croix-Rouge du Tchad*), ASTBEF (*Association Tchadienne pour le bien être familial*), the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) – in Ouaddaï, and the CRT and CNARR (*Commission Nationale d'Accueil et de Réinsertion des Réfugiés*) – in Sila and Wadi Fira, conducted 134 awareness sessions and 37 focus groups on gender-based violence in camps and sites, reaching 42,747 people. More than 18,000 refugees also took part in 27 awareness-raising sessions on the services available for protection against sexual exploitation and abuse,

A total of 1,630 at-risk children were identified and 93 best interest assessments were initiated by HIAS. In addition, 38,318 children attended child-friendly spaces and 24,053 children took part in awareness-raising campaigns focusing on issues related to child protection.

In total, 5,241 people with specific needs were identified, of whom 990 received material assistance.

In addition, in Ouaddaï, 16,926 people participated in 25 mass-awareness sessions on human rights organized by HIAS, and in Sila, 14,315 people participated in 25 awareness sessions on the services available at the camps, organized by HIAS and UNHCR.

Health and Nutrition

Since the start of the emergency, 61,942 medical consultations have been carried out. Acute respiratory infections, watery diarrhea and malaria remain the three most frequent pathologies. An increase in skin related conditions has been noted. The children examined benefited from seasonal malaria chemoprophylaxis. In addition, 5,031 mental health cases were treated.

A total of 42,783 children were screened for malnutrition, of which 7,702 were treated for moderate acute malnutrition and 4,263 for severe acute malnutrition. To date, a total of 9,126 pregnant and breastfeeding women were screened and 906 cases of moderate acute malnutrition have been treated.

In addition, 497 deliveries were attended by skilled personnel.

Food Distribution

As of 2 September, WFP has provided food to 349,808 refugees, Chadian returnees, and vulnerable people in host communities in the provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila and Wadi Fira.

Shelters, infrastructure, and WASH

As of 2 September, 28,790 family shelters, 163 sheds, 5,046 latrines and showers were constructed across the three provinces of Ouaddaï, Wadi Fira, and Sila. A total of 21 boreholes are functional in Ouaddaï and Sila.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Highlights

- As of 4 September, a total of 1,808 individuals have relocated to Korsi.
- French as a foreign language and literacy classes have started for a total of 310 students.
- UNHCR and NOURRIR have distributed non-food items kits to 254 people and the WFP, in partnership with NOURRIR, distributed dry food to 83 people. NOURRIR also distributed hot meals to 917 individuals.

Response Overview

Since the beginning of the crisis, an estimated 18,545 persons have arrived in CAR from Sudan, including 13,844 refugees and 4,701 Central African returnees with a majority being women and children.

A total of 1,808 have relocated from Am-Dafock to Korsi, Birao to date. As the roads to Am-Dafock have become impassable due to the rains, the assisted relocation exercise has been placed on hold temporarily while self-organized relocations continue. The National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and INTERSOS have deployed staff in Am-Dafock to conduct border and protection monitoring and provide information.

Assistance continues in Korsi, where construction works for family and community shelters, latrines and showers are ongoing. Biometric registration continues and individual and community psychosocial support is provided. An information and feedback center and a complaint management mechanism is also available in Korsi.

Awareness raising sessions on gender-based violence (GBV), protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and child protection are also taking place, as well as healthcare and distribution of food and core relief items (CRIs). Education activities started in Korsi, to support inclusion of refugee children in the national school system. In Bangui and Birao, the coordination efforts are led by CNR and UNHCR.

On August 19, the Central African Government signed a decree granting refugee status on a prima facie basis to Sudanese who have fled their country following the onset of the crisis in April.

Registration

A total of 9,027 persons have so far been biometrically registered.

Relocation

As of 4 September, a total of 1,808 individuals have relocated to Korsi, mostly women and children. A total of 959 persons have arrived by their own means since the last relocation convoy. They have been registered and provided with assistance.

Protection

CNR and INTERSOS staff deployed at the border continue to monitor the situation in Am-Dafock.

INTEROS have organized individual psychosocial counseling sessions for persons with specific needs, including pregnant women, elderly people, and unaccompanied and separated minors. In addition, eight group counseling sessions on family conflicts and the education of girls have targeted over 338 women and girls. A total of six workshops on daily life skills, including cooking and knitting, targeting 182 women and girls have been organized.

Since the relocation started, a total of 290 persons with specific needs have been identified in Korsi, including women at risk, female headed households, GBV survivors, unaccompanied and separated minors, who have been referred to relevant services.

INTEROS continues to raise awareness on the information and feedback center and the complaint management mechanism in Korsi. To date, 179 complaints have been collected, and feedback is regularly provided. Community awareness raising activities have also been carried out in Korsi, targeting both refugees and host community on the different types of GBV, reaching about 500 persons.

CNR has organized the first coordination meeting with the participation of refugee committees' representatives.

INTEROS has conducted 45 perception surveys with new refugee households in Korsi. The main concerns identified are related to the attributions of shelters and distributions of CRI.

Health

UNHCR's partner NOURRIR carried out an awareness raising session on hygiene promotion and the proper use of showers and latrines, targeting 610 households.

In the recent week, NOURRIR, MSF-Spain and International Medical Corps (IMC), under the lead of the Health District of Birao, have carried out 425 medical consultations, in addition to 24 prenatal consultations, 11 gynecological consultations and six post-natal consultations, two surgeries and one child delivery. A total of eight patients have been referred to the Health District in Birao for secondary care.

Nutritional intakes have been distributed by WFP and NOURRIR to 40 children.

Shelter, CRIs and Food Distribution

NOURRIR completed 456 shelters in Korsi and finalized the construction of an infirmary and a maternity ward. During the reporting period, UNHCR and NOURRIR distributed non-food items kits to 254 people and the WFP, in partnership with NOURRIR, distributed dry food to 83 people. NOURRIR also distributed hot meals to 917 individuals.

Education

UNICEF school kits have been distributed by *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH) to 188 refugee children selected for French and literacy classes.

French as a foreign language and literacy classes have started for a total of 310 students (143 girls and 167 boys).

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- Despite ongoing clashes in Sudan, the number of new arrivals remains stable. Most refugees fleeing the conflict are using the Metema entry point in Amhara and the Kurmuk entry point in Benishangul-Gumuz (BSGR) regions. Despite the volatile security situation in the Amhara region, which is one of the main areas of influx of refugees from Sudan to Ethiopia, assistance activities have fully resumed.
- UNHCR and partners are trying to contain the cholera outbreak in the Kumer settlement in the Amhara region that has so far claimed six lives, by increasing the number of health personnel, supply for cholera vaccines, community health outreach and WASH improvements. A Cholera Treatment Center has been established, where 244 patients have been admitted since the start of the outbreak (199 of them are recovering and/or are being discharged).
- There have been reports of Ethiopian refugees returning from Sudan through the Humera border point in Tigray.
- As of 3 September, 35,246 refugees and asylum-seekers (16,951 families) including 392 refugee returnees have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia.
- The ongoing pause on the provision of food assistance is leading to increased protection risks and compelling refugees to engage in work under hazardous conditions.
- In Assosa (BSGR), refugee leaders report that the pause on food aid has led to increased protection and other risks, such as survival sex, increase in the use of medication, and, especially, of Acute malnutrition (17,2%).

Population Movements

As of 3 September, 35,246 refugees and asylum-seekers (16,951 families) have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia. Of these, 53 per cent crossed through the Metema entry point in Amhara, 45 per cent through the Kurmuk entry point in BSGR and 700 individuals (2%) in different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey). Most of them are Sudanese (71%), followed by Eritreans (24%), South Sudanese (5%), Ethiopian returnees (1%), and other nationalities (0.2%). Out of the 35,246 people who have crossed the border, 392 are Ethiopian returnees.

The Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and UNHCR conducted border monitoring mission to the Gessan entry point to assess the situation of new arrivals. The mission verified new arrivals, and IOM provided High Energy Biscuits and water. Following the mission, 43 Sudanese asylum-seekers have been relocated from Gessan entry point to the Sherkole refugee camp, coordinated by UNHCR, IOM and RRS.

Access

In Amhara, UNHCR and partner staff and persons fleeing the conflict in Sudan have full access to the border point (Metema). No issues have been reported by staff or by new arrivals.

In BSGR, most frequented border entry points are accessible, except the Yabus entry point because of poor road and weather conditions. Partners are preparing an assessment of the entry point. Refugee camps in BSGR are accessible but the access to IDPs/returnees in Metekel and Kemashi zones is intermittently restricted due to the security situation.

Protection

In Kurmuk in BSGR, CRI such as blankets, mosquito nets, soap, and water buckets, have been distributed to 2,240 individuals. The distribution of these items and sleeping mats will continue at Kurmuk transit center in the coming weeks, to benefit more than 2,000 individuals.

UNHCR has organized two sensitization sessions for social workers from UNHCR and partners in Kurmuk to educate them about the risks of cholera and recommended prevention measures. A total of 16,040 individuals have been registered so far.

In Kumer site, Amhara, and Kurmuk Transit Center (TC), in BSGR, the protection help desk is continuing its work, counselling refugees and asylum-seekers. The main areas of concern are voluntary returns, registration, documentation, health, and security incidents.

There has been unconfirmed information of spontaneous returns to Sudan among single men.

The total population of forcibly displaced persons from Sudan screened by UNHCR in Metema is 18,567.

In Tigray, 11 refugees who returned from Sudan to Sheraro have received CRIs and multipurpose cash. UNHCR team is conducting protection monitoring and responding to their needs.

Child Protection

In Assosa, Plan International Ethiopia (PIE), has carried out 315 activities at the Child Friendly Space. PIE also identified and responded to a total of 448 cases of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).

In Amhara, all the 332 UASC participated in recreational and outdoor activities at the Metema TC, while 33 UASC have participated in such activities at the Kumer site. To monitor the situation and ensure adequate care for children at risk, 22 home visits have taken place. The total number of UASC identified to date is 335.

GBV Response

In Assosa, UNHCR's partner for GBV and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, International Rescue Committee (IRC), visited Kurmuk TC, aiming to reinforce ongoing efforts on GBV and MHPSS support.

In Metema border area, the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church Development and Inter-church Aid Commission (DICAC) ran two mobile outreach campaigns focused on GBV prevention and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

At the Kumer site and Metema TCs, 300 women have benefitted from awareness-raising sessions on PSEA and GBV reporting mechanisms. Additionally, 319 women and girls of reproductive age have received dignity kits from UNICEF. So far, 40 GBV cases have been reported in the Metema area.

At the Kumer settlement, eight persons (two female) with specific needs have been identified. To improve their mobility, they have received crutches, while others have been profiled to receive assistive devices. Home visits have taken place to monitor the living conditions of 43 persons with specific needs, out of a total of 665 identified individuals so far.

Health

In the Assosa area, patients from refugees' sites are being referred to Kurmuk Woreda Health Clinic and Sherkole Health Center.

The Red Cross is providing medications to the Kurmuk Woreda Health Clinic.

The ambulance service halted for two days due to a temporary fuel shortage but has now resumed.

Following UNHCR's intervention, the Regional Health Bureau agreed to include the Kurmuk TC under the authority of the Kurmuk Woreda health office to improve emergency response through the provision of supplies of antimalarial drugs and rapid diagnostic tests.

In the last seven days, three children have died in Kurmuk TC, reportedly of malaria, exacerbated by other complications.

In Kumer site, Amhara region, 46 cases have so far been admitted to the Cholera Treatment Centre set up by the local woreda administration. A total of 244 patients have been admitted since the start of the outbreak, with 199 recoveries being discharged, and six fatalities.

Community outreach activities are ongoing with Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS), Medical Team International (MTI) and MSF-H hygiene promoters carrying out active case surveillance, risk communication and community engagement, as well as disinfecting the houses of patients and providing home-to-home health education on hygiene.

Over 2,500 individuals in Kumer have been reached as part of an awareness raising campaign conducted by Community Hygiene Promoters (CHPs) on cholera. Disinfection campaigns were conducted in areas where open defecation was practiced, and soap was distributed to inhabitants. Despite these efforts, the consumption of non-drinking water from the river and open defecation remains a problem. Currently, three additional latrine blocs are being built in Kumer site, with four additional blocs planned.

Food

In Kurmuk TC in BSGR, the Ethiopian National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) distributed dry food (flour, cooking oil), kitchen sets and clothes to the beneficiaries.

WASH

In the Amhara region, WASH activities included water trucking providing an average of 12 liters per person per day in Kumer refugee settlement, and 21 liters per person per day in Metema TC. The water quality has been checked daily, establishing that the average Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) is 0.5mg/l – in line with WHO's Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) level standards.

In Kumer, handwashing stations have been installed in five latrine blocs and three feeding centers, to improve hygiene conditions.

Shelter / Site Development and Relocation

In BSGR, Assosa, UNHCR is working with the RRS and the Regional President's Office to identify as soon as possible a new site to accommodate arrivals from Sudan.

UNHCR's shelter partner Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) has pitched 30 tents near the Kurmuk TC. The tents are equipped with latrines constructed by IRC in coordination with the UNHCR.

RRS, in collaboration with community leaders, will soon begin relocating the families currently sheltered in local school building in Kurmuk to tents.

In Kumer site, Amhara region, site development is ongoing, with 18 out of 20 communal shelters completed. A total of 1,606 tents have been pitched so far, and the construction of the Cholera treatment center is now 70 per cent completed.

EGYPT

Highlights

- On 31 August, the Government of Egypt announced that foreign residents living irregularly in Egypt must formalize their status within three months. The process involves obtaining a legal residence permit with sponsorship from an Egyptian national and paying administrative expenses equivalent to USD 1,000. Foreigners must convert funds for the fees from foreign currencies to Egyptian pounds, which includes residence costs, through authorized channels. Although the government confirmed that this measure will not affect refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR, it is still unclear whether it will impact other Sudanese individuals who have fled the conflict and have not yet registered, including those already residing in Egypt and who are no longer able to return to Sudan. UNHCR is sharing information messages through communication channels explaining that the new regulations do not apply to refugees.
- As of 3 September, following UNHCR's advocacy, refugees, and asylum-seekers regardless of their nationality can now collect remittances through IBAG (authorized agent for Western Union in Egypt) by using UNHCR registration cards as recognized identity document in conjunction with their residency permit. This eases access to Money Transfer Services across 38 branches in Egypt.
- The UNHCR Representative in Sudan, Axel Bisschop, conducted a mission to Cairo on 30 and 31 August, to discuss coordination between UNHCR in Egypt and Sudan and the complex humanitarian situation in Wadi Halfa, where UNHCR has recently established an office to support forcibly displaced people, including those awaiting entry into Egypt and those who have returned. UNHCR is working to enhance cross-border coordination to address the growing needs in Wadi Halfa. Mr. Bisschop also addressed a Sudan inter-agency meeting including diplomatic representatives from the United States, the European Union, and the embassies of Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, among others.
- The UNHCR Representative in Egypt, Dr. Hanan Hamdan, conducted a two-day mission to Alexandria on 29 and 30 August. The visit included meetings with refugee community leaders at the Caritas Community Centre and with the Saudi Consul and the Director of the Bibliotheca of Alexandria to discuss ideas for further cooperation aimed at promoting the inclusion of refugees in the city. Alexandria currently hosts more than 28,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, including large numbers of Sudanese.
- On 26 and 30 August, as part of its strategy to empower local organizations and enhance livelihood opportunities for refugees and their hosts in southern Egypt, UNHCR delivered electronic and kitchen appliances, sewing machines, and other materials to eight community development associations. The local organizations have been providing support to people arriving from Sudan since the start of the conflict, offering food and shelter in Aswan and Karkar, a small town located some 30 km from Aswan. UNHCR has now agreed to provide each association with material assistance to address the needs of the new arrivals. The donated materials, which include seven laptops, seven fridges, five washing machines, four sewing machines, and three tool sharpening machines, will enable both refugees and the host community to improve their livelihoods, while also promoting the local integration of new arrivals from Sudan.
- Egypt has established measures to reduce traffic congestion at the Argeen and Qustol border crossings which has significantly relieved pressures. A queueing system in Abu Simbel and Aswan has reduced the length of tailbacks in Qustol from 15 km to 2 km, and in Argeen from 22 km to 15 km over the past two weeks.

Protection

On 27 August UNHCR Egypt did a live Facebook video session reaching some 90,000 users and viewed more than 37,000 times to respond to requests from newly arrived Sudanese on registration. The video was streamed on UNHCR Egypt's Communication with Communities (CwC) Facebook channels, which collectively count more than 200,000 followers. In the live broadcast, UNHCR staff answered refugees' questions on how to register and what to bring to their registration interviews and reminded viewers of UNHCR's integrity principles and how to report fraud, stating that all UNHCR services are free. It further stated the importance of not sharing personal information with unauthorized individuals or untrusted resources.

In August, for the second consecutive month, the UNHCR Egypt Help website received the highest number of visits among operations in the Middle East and North Africa region and ranked fourth globally. In August, the website received over 60,000 visits and more than 123,000 page views. This represents a 41 per cent increase in page views compared to April, when the Sudan crisis began. The UNHCR Egypt Help website, available in the six main languages used by refugees in the country (Arabic, English, Somali, Amharic, Oromo and Tigrinya), is a key channel for providing information to the displaced population.

In addition to the new arrivals from Sudan, many Sudanese who used to live in Egypt mainly for economic reasons and may never have registered as refugees, now face issues when renewing their residencies. At the same time, they cannot go back to Sudan due to fear of persecution and since they would in this case no longer be allowed to re-enter into Egypt. They thus risk becoming *sur place* refugees. Many of them therefore are expected to register with UNHCR to be able to continue staying legally in Egypt.

Registration

In August, there was almost a fivefold increase in overall registration capacity compared to pre-crisis output with 21,756 individuals newly registered, including 17,268 newly arrived refugees and asylum-seekers. The rest included Sudanese already in Egypt prior to the Sudan crisis. Also in August, there was a 130 per cent increase in the number of newly arrived persons registered compared to July and UNHCR issued 21,687 appointments to 47,057 individuals, including 23,203 new arrivals from Sudan. To respond to the increased demands, 80 new cameras for biometric enrolment and 90,000 new UNHCR cards were procured.

As of 3 September, UNHCR had provided pre-registration appointments to 72,975 newly arrived individuals (34,847 households), including 45,043 individuals (21,967 households) now registered. The majority are Sudanese nationals (91%), while the top three third-country nationals registered are South Sudanese (4%), Eritrean (3%) and Syrian (1%). Most Sudanese (89%) originate from Khartoum, while more than four per cent are from the Darfur region. In terms of documentation, 58 per cent of registered heads of household are in possession of a travel document.

Cash Assistance

UNHCR is accelerating the cash assistance delivery to new arrivals from Sudan. Between 12 August and 2 September, the number of recently arrived individuals fleeing the conflict in Sudan who received UNHCR cash assistance increased by 157 per cent. The total number of assisted individuals now stands at 27,780, compared to 10,823 at the beginning of August. Age and gender trends remain consistent, with most assessed families being female headed (72%).

UNHCR provides emergency cash assistance to new arrival Sudanese who fled to Egypt after the conflict in Sudan. The assistance is provided as a once-off to families who have registered with UNHCR and to those who have not registered to support them with their most pressing needs. UNHCR conducts rapid needs assessments to inform the eligibility for emergency assistance for the unregistered Sudanese. Registered families and unregistered families in possession of a passport currently receive assistance through the Egypt Post Office. Those who are not registered and without a valid passport receive their assistance via prepaid cards.

Health

In the context of the Sudan crisis, UNHCR is working to ensure access for new arrivals to the public health system by expanding existing programs to accommodate new arrivals, including by introducing new activities in Aswan. UNHCR is also supporting the Ministry of Health with key medical equipment to strengthen its capacity to deal with the increased number of people in need. The number of persons receiving subsidized medication with UNHCR support was more than 7,600, while the number of people receiving hospital care was close to 3,700, according to the last quarterly figures issued at the end of June.

Inter-Agency Coordination

A revision of the regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) has been conducted in the last weeks, to extend the plan until the end of 2023 and Egypt's overall RRP requirements increased by around 10 per cent to USD 125.5 million. UNHCR Egypt's revised requirements include an additional three million for Registration and Winter Cash Assistance. The Egypt chapter of the RRP remains only 27 per cent funded at this time.

On 21 September, UNHCR will convene a workshop to plan the RRP 2024 together with the government, donors, UN agencies and partners. While this update focuses on UNHCR's activities, a separate RRP update provides details on the holistic inter-agency and inter-sector response.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- As of 3 September, a total number of 249,231 individuals/57,856 households have arrived in South Sudan.
- South Sudanese returnees continue to comprise the majority of new arrivals (91%), followed by Sudanese (7%), and Eritrean (1%) refugees.
- IOM has announced the suspension of onward transportation assistance effective this week, citing a depletion of allocated funds. As a result, onward transportation to or from Renk, Malakal, Wau, Paloich and other locations is now on pause until additional resources are found. Humanitarian partners are coordinating contingency plans, however there are fears that current conditions at transit and reception centers could rapidly deteriorate and put thousands of vulnerable, forcibly displaced people at heightened risk.

Protection

UNHCR in Panakuach and Bentiu continue targeted focus group discussions with new arrivals. They are reporting a worsening security situation in Sudan as the violence spreads. The interviewees report flight journeys reaching up to four weeks because of roadblocks, checkpoints, looting, harassment, and other protection incidents. An elderly woman interviewed described her route to South Sudan “as dangerous as the war itself”. The blocking of commercial buses and trucks by authorities at Kharsana (route to Panakuach) also continues for those unable to pay the newly imposed fees.

UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) have completed construction of a new child friendly space at the Bulukat Transit Centre, and a second shelter was also finalised to increase overall protection outreach at the centre.

Health and Nutrition

Over 8,000 new arrivals have received food assistance via different modalities (hot meal/cash/in-kind) at transit centers in Renk, Abyei, Malakal, Aweil, and Panakuach this week.

Almost 1,600 children under five-years-old have been screened for malnutrition and 297 children have been identified with acute malnutrition. The accumulative proxy acute malnutrition rate now stands at 31 per cent in children (exceeding the 15% WHO emergency threshold) with the highest rates in Malakal and Renk.

Onward referral of malnutrition cases to their final destination has been noted as the most significant challenge over the last week, with many cases dropping out of nutrition treatment due to onward movement. New arrivals, continue to complain that food rations are inadequate and unable to sustain them.

Food Security

In Wedwil Refugee Settlement, WFP has completed the first round of food distribution at 70 per cent of a full ration. This new increased assistance (refugee rations are at 50 per cent elsewhere in the country) will last for three-months.

UNHCR has observed in other locations that several refugees are leaving the transit center and heading to the markets by the border in search of food, which poses considerable protection risks, considering recent security incidents in the area.

In Bentiu, WFP has communicated the suspension of regular food assistance to IDPs, returnees, and the host community due to funding constraints. The announcement led to a skyrocketing of food prices, which forced the intervention of government and authorities to re-regulate prices and restore calm.

Water and Sanitation

Water provision continued with ongoing challenges and a considerable drop in water supply in Renk, where only eight liters of water has been provided per person per day. This is due to the reduced onward movement of families. Water provision has been highest in Malakal, which provided 20 liters per person per day. In Abyei, poor road access continues to block efforts to truck water to the transit center.

For sanitation, pit latrine ratios remained low, across most new arrival hosting centers. More specific latrine gaps include Abyei, where four latrines and accompanying bathing shelters are required.

Shelter and NFI

UNHCR with support from partners improved shelter conditions across multiple sites this week. In Malakal, five new shelters were constructed at the transit center, a further three were rehabilitated. In Wedwil, 30 new family tents were erected to house vulnerable families who were sleeping out in the open, meanwhile rehabilitation works are underway in Panakuach, to repair damaged cause by heavy rains.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

In Renk, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), in collaboration with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) and the County Executive Director, identified and rehabilitated two new burial grounds in Renk town, to allow new arrivals and the host community to be able to bury relatives in dignity. Flash floods had hampered access to burial sites previously used.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

Revised Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) – May-December 2023

- On 4 September, UNHCR and 64 partner organisations published a revised inter-agency [Sudan Emergency Regional Refugee Response Plan – May to December 2023](#), which is appealing for **USD 1 billion** to provide essential aid and protection to over **1.8 million people** expected to arrive in five neighbouring countries by the end of 2023, fleeing ongoing conflict in Sudan.
- RRP 2-page Summary: [Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan – May-December 2023 – At a Glance](#).

Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) – May-December 2023

- The revised inter-agency [Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\) for Sudan – May-December 2023](#) requires **USD 2.56 billion** to help 18 million people.

Revised UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – May-December 2023

- On 4 September, UNHCR also issued a revised [Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal – May-December 2023](#) to reflect increased needs of **USD 506.5 million**. As of 31 August, the percentage funded of the revised appeal was **27%**, amounting to some USD 134.5 million in total.

Resources

- UNHCR's [Operational Data Portal \(ODP\) for the Sudan Situation](#) provides daily updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan's neighbouring countries.
- [UNHCR and IOM Joint Dashboard](#) of arrivals to South Sudan, including data on returnee intentions, onward movements, and numbers and locations of returnees in and around Renk.
- [UNHCR Global Focus Sudan Operation page](#)
- [UNHCR Sudan Emergency website](#)
- UNHCR's HELP site for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Sudan provides information to individuals seeking information and support inside Sudan (in [English](#) and [Arabic](#)).

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