

## SUDAN SITUATION

11-18 September 2023



Niesen Abdallah, 22, with her youngest brother at Renk Transit Centre, South Sudan. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

### Highlights

The ongoing clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that started on 15 April 2023 have continued for 156 days as of 18 September.

UNHCR and the World Health Organization (WHO) are [sounding the alarm](#) on the worsening health situation caused by the Sudan crisis. More than 1,200 South Sudanese refugee children under five have died in nine camps in White Nile State, Sudan between 15 May and 14 September due to a deadly combination of a suspected measles outbreak and high malnutrition.

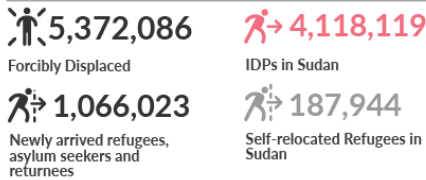
On 13 September, heads of over 50 human rights and humanitarian organizations issued a [joint statement](#) urging for more aid, solidarity, and attention to the Sudan crisis.

On 13 September, the United States Government issued a [press statement](#) denouncing the recent increase of discriminate air and artillery strikes in Sudan, including in Khartoum, South Darfur and South Kordofan states.

Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Clementine Nkweta-Salami also released a [statement](#) the same day condemning the attack on a market in southern Khartoum on 10 September, and the ongoing killing of civilians in Khartoum, Nyala, El Fasher, and other areas.

Speaking at the 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council on 12 September, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk [emphasized](#) the brutal impact of the conflict on civilians, including indiscriminate attacks in densely populated areas, widespread arbitrary detention, ethnically motivated attacks in Darfur, involvement of militia often affiliated along tribal and ethnic lines, and an epidemic of conflict-related sexual violence.

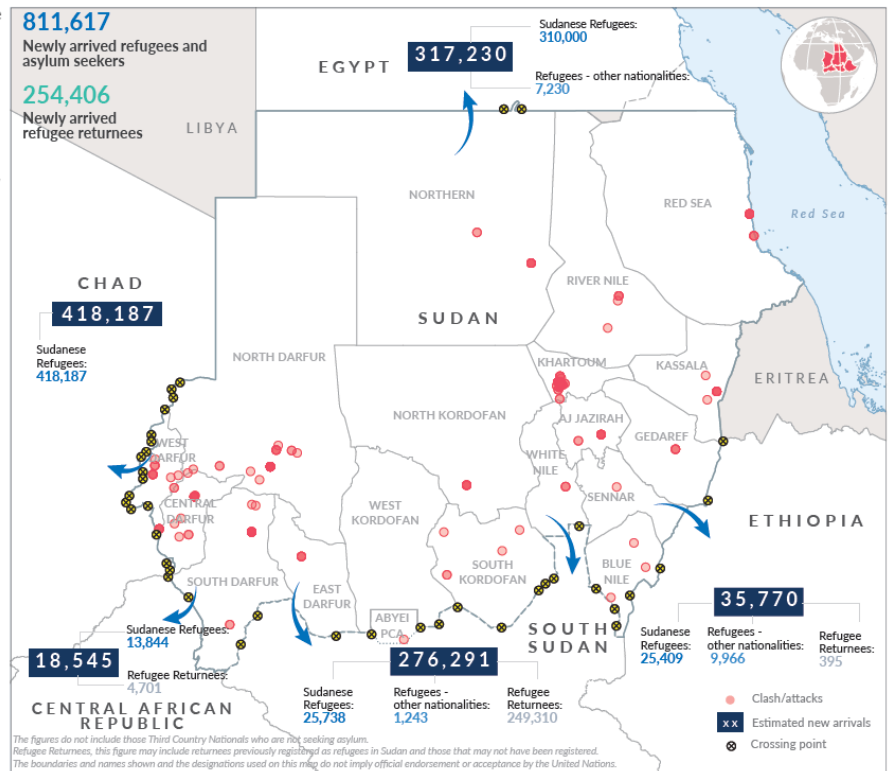
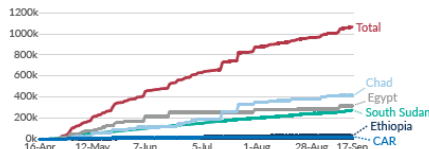
**OVERVIEW:** There are now nearly 5.4 million forcibly displaced due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, including 4.1 million internally and over 1 million in neighbouring countries. Sudan was already hosting large refugee populations before being impacted by this new emergency and, like hosting 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.



**Arrivals by population and estimated gender type**



**New arrivals from Sudan**



## Situation and Operational Response

### SUDAN

#### Highlights

- As of 18 September, the total number of internally displaced in Sudan stands at 4,118,119 individuals.
- Heavy rains and flooding have caused the destruction of more refugee shelters in several of the “open areas” in Khartoum where many South Sudanese refugees reside.
- In White Nile State, the Ministry of Agriculture will allocate 520 acres of land for refugees to cultivate.
- All commercial, private, and humanitarian convoys from Kosti (White Nile) to El Obeid (North Kordofan) have been banned by local authorities.
- Following UNHCR intervention, border security officials have allowed refugees arriving from Ethiopia stranded at the Gallabat border to leave the area and the Commission for Refugees (COR) has facilitated their transport to Gedaref. The refugees had been denied travel permits to Gedaref earlier due to a suspected cholera outbreak on the Ethiopian side of the border.

## Updates by Location

### Khartoum

Heavy rains and flooding have caused the destruction of refugee shelters in several of the “open areas” in Khartoum where many South Sudanese refugees reside. UNHCR is trying to identify a refugee-led organization that can provide support as none of the existing partners are currently operational in Khartoum.

### Darfur

In East Darfur, partner World Vision visited Sharia for the identification of persons with specific needs (PSNs) in preparation for the provision of cash support.

In South Darfur, UNHCR’s partner the Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery (SORR) is preparing for the distribution of 5,000 plastic sheets targeting 3,000 refugees (including those in Beliel refugee settlement) and 2,000 IDPs. SORR will proceed with identification of PSN needs among newly displaced IDPs in Kalma, Otash and Deriege.

UNHCR’s legal aid partner Mutawinat is preparing to do awareness raising and organise seminars to build the capacity of traditional leaders in the absence of functional courts, as well as provision of legal assistance, counselling, and consultations in Al Radoum and Buram localities.

In West Darfur, SORR is conducting NFI needs assessment in Ardamata ahead of the planned distribution of NFI through cross-border operations from Chad. SORR has completed NFI distribution to 1,637 vulnerable IDP households covering all 11 gathering sites/locations in Kulbus, West Darfur. The remaining NFI kits were intended to be distributed to vulnerable households in the host community but were looted by local community members who broke into the SORR warehouse.

In Central Darfur, protection partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) continues to conduct awareness raising campaigns, and protection assessments to understand protection trends and capacities. Additionally, a two-day protection training was conducted for 20 individuals to equip them to refer cases to community-based protection networks and provide protection information.

Plans are being finalized to move medicines and plastic sheeting in North, South and East Darfur. However, OCHA and the Civilian-Military coordination group has confirmed that the movement of stocks to North and South Darfur is currently paused.

In North Darfur, UNHCR’s partner HOPE is undertaking protection assessments in Abu Shock and Al Salam IDP camp.

### Port Sudan (Red Sea State)

Preparations are underway to start small-scale registration activities focusing on renewal of photo slips for refugees and asylum-seekers coming from Khartoum, and verification and production of documentation for those registered in Port Sudan as urban caseload.

### Kordofan States

In South Kordofan, UNHCR’s partner Save the Children is considering how to best provide assistance to children in Kadugli facing child protection risks, as raised by the Ministry of Social Development and Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in Kadugli.

### White Nile State

The Ministry of Agriculture has pledged to allocate 520 acres of land for refugees to access and cultivate.

In the camps, the Sudan Commission for Refugees (COR) and the host community are in discussion on the extension of land in three camps (Khor Alwarel, Um Sangour, and Aljameya) to decongest the existing camps.

In Khor Alwarel, Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) will start site clearance and tents pitching.

### **Gedaref**

The Executive Council in Doka locality, hosting a large IDP community, has agreed with UNHCR to find a community center to serve as a one-stop-shop for all agencies involved in the IDP response, provide IDP statistics, conduct a vulnerability assessment, and implement livelihood activities. UNHCR and local authorities in Doka will assess three locations identified by the authorities for the proposed IDP community center.

UN agencies have been notified that commercial, private, and humanitarian convoys from Kosti (White Nile) to El Obeid (North Kordofan) have been banned by local authorities and therefore UN convoys from Kosti to Darfur and Kordofan have stopped until further notice. The situation continues to be monitored to identify new convoy dates. This will impact the humanitarian convoys from Kosti containing UNHCR NFI and medicines.

UNHCR in collaboration with COR and shelter partner the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) have identified land in Um Rakuba camp to accommodate 120 refugee households currently living in communal shelters. COR commenced demarcation on 12 September.

Total of 230 refugees and asylum-seekers have been relocated from Um Gulja to Um Gargour camp while over 300 individuals remain. Efforts are ongoing to identify empty plots as space in the camps is a challenge.

### **Kassala**

From January to August, 4,415 new refugee arrivals have been received, which is putting strains on the reception centre due to lack of shelter resources.

### **Wad Madani (Jazirah State)**

UNHCR continues to monitor the movement of refugees and asylum-seekers from Khartoum. Many Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees are contacting UNHCR and COR to seek shelter assistance as several gathering sites have reached full capacity.

Site mapping of IDP gathering sites is ongoing in Wad Madani.

### **Cross-Border Interventions**

On 6 September, some 900 NFI kits were transported from Chad and distributed by SORR to IDP returnees in southern El Geneina neighborhoods and among the host community in the Al Jabel area.

### **Multi-State Interventions**

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) continue to be rolled out across operations in the country. Preparations are underway in Port Sudan (Red Sea State), Kassala, and North Darfur, while the second phase has commenced in Wadi Halfa (Northern State).

## **CHAD**

### **Highlights**

- A total of 176,019 individuals (42% of new arrivals) have been relocated to four newly established camps and seven existing camps where extensions areas have been set up and basic amenities constructed to receive new arrivals.
- As of 14 September, 34,376 family shelters have been built in the provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila and Wadi Fira.
- The most urgent needs for the refugees remain shelter, core relief items, WASH, including access to water, and access to health services.

### **Relocation**

As of 15 September, a total of 176,019 individuals (47,418 households) have been relocated to safer areas away from the borders, bringing the total of new arrivals relocated to 42 per cent. Through 225 convoys, refugees have been relocated to the existing and new camps in the provinces of Ouaddaï (114,328 individuals), Sila (46,340 individuals), and Wadi Fira (15,351 individuals), where they have access to life-saving assistance, basic amenities and protection services.



## Protection

As of 16 September, 304 cases of GBV have been reported. Referrals to relevant services, including medical, legal, and psychosocial support, are regularly taking place and assistance is provided.

The Hebrew Immigration Aid Society (HIAS), with the support of UNHCR and the camp leaders, and in collaboration with the Croix Rouge Tchadien (CRT), *Association Tchadienne pour le Bien-Être Familial* (ASTBEF) and Association for the Development and Strengthening of Humanitarian Actions (ADRAH), have conducted 149 awareness sessions and 47 focus groups discussions on GBV in both camps and arrival sites, reaching 44,860 individuals. In addition, 14,238 refugees have been reached through 30 awareness-raising sessions on the available services for the protection against sexual exploitation and abuse.

A total of 1,797 children at risk have been identified and are being monitored by HIAS, *Cooperazione Internazionale COOPI* (International Cooperation) and CRT.

With the support of UNHCR and UNICEF, HIAS and CRT have facilitated the family reunification of 54 unaccompanied children and the referral of 159 children to the health and nutrition services.

As part of psychosocial support for children, a total of 42,789 individuals have taken part in activities organised in child-friendly spaces in Sila and Ouaddaï. In addition, 488 children have received one-off assistance, including clothes and hygiene kits.

A total of 39,965 persons have participated in awareness-raising sessions on various topic related to child protection, such as family separation and violence against children.

The birth registration program implemented by *Agence Nationale de Titre Sécurisés* (ANATS) – the Chadian agency responsible for civil documentation – supported by UNICEF and UNHCR, has recorded 1,309 births.

In total, 5,645 Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs), including women at risk, single parents, persons living with disabilities, and elderlies have been identified, of whom 1,330 have received material assistance.

## Health and Nutrition

A total of 73,125 medical consultations have been carried out since the start of the crisis. Acute respiratory infections, watery diarrhoea and malaria remain the three most frequent pathologies. An increase in cases of skin related conditions has been noted. The children examined benefited from seasonal malaria prophylaxis. In addition, 5,088 mental health cases have been treated.

A proportion of 29 per cent of global acute malnutrition has been detected among 48,038 children screened, aged 6-59 months. A total of 8,800 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and 4,992 cases of severe acute malnutrition have been treated. To date, 9,567 pregnant and breastfeeding women have been screened and 924 cases of moderate acute malnutrition have been treated. In addition, 581 deliveries were attended by skilled personnel.

Since 13 September, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Switzerland has been providing secondary health care, including the services of a therapeutic nutrition unit at the Ourang camp.

On 14 September, WFP and UNHCR's partner HIAS began the general food distribution at the Lycée d'Adre site.

## Food Distribution

As of 18 September, WFP has provided food to 388,337 refugees, Chadian migrant returnees, and vulnerable people from host communities in the provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila, and Wadi Fira.

## Shelters, Infrastructure and WASH

As of 14 September, 34,376 family shelters, 163 sheds and 5,071 latrines and showers have been constructed across Ouaddaï, Wadi Fira and Sila. A total of 21 boreholes have been built and are functional in Ouaddaï and Sila, to ensure refugees have access to water.

## Central African Republic (CAR)

### Highlights

- As of 18 September, a total of 1,922 individuals have relocated to Korsi, where registration is ongoing, and assistance is provided.
- NOURRIR, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), International Medical Corps (IMC), WHO and the Birao Health District carried out 406 medical consultations, during the reporting period.
- A total of 140 refugee students received school kits from Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH), with the support of UNICEF. To date, 304 school kits have been distributed.

### Response Overview

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

To date, a total of 1,922 have relocated to Korsi. 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, a listening center was established and individual and community psychosocial support is provided. An information and feedback center and a complaint management mechanism have also been set up 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 to support refugee inclusion in the national school system are ongoing in Korsi. In Bangui and Birao, 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 2023.

### Registration

A total of 9,310 persons have been biometrically registered.

So far, 698 assistance cards have been distributed to the heads of registered families, to ensure access to food, core relief items and health services. A total of 84 family certificates have also been distributed.

### Relocation

As of 18 September, a total of 1,922 individuals have relocated to Korsi, mostly women and children.

### Protection

INTEROS has carried out 73 monitoring visits to PSNs, including women at risk, persons with disabilities, elderlies, in Korsi, Birao (Nguérendomo, Rouna, Laména, Abodja, Ardo, Djamal).

INTEROS has carried out 29 individual counseling sessions with PSNs, including pregnant and breastfeeding women, separated and unaccompanied children, and elderly people.

A total of 149 participants have attended awareness raising sessions on human rights related issues and peaceful coexistence in Korsi. A total of 20 sessions on daily life skills activities, including mat-making, knitting, and braiding sessions have taken place targeting 181 women and girls.

Aiming at preventing GBV in the Vakaga prefecture, 533 persons, including women, men, girls and boys, have been reached through five awareness sessions in Korsi.

INTEROS reached about 280 refugees through three awareness sessions about the Information and Feedback Center and the complaint management mechanism set up in Korsi.

### Shelter, NFIs and Food Distribution

Data collected by INTERSOS through 32 household perception surveys targeting new arrivals in Korsi showed that access to shelter and core relief items are among the main concerns.

NOURRIR is finalizing the construction of 23 emergency shelters and a distribution hangar. The finishing works of the infirmary, maternity and sorting sheds is put on hold due to lack of materials in the local market.

From 9-15 September, NOURRIR, in collaboration with WFP, distributed dry food to 1,743 individuals (812 households). Additionally, NOURRIR received dry food from WFP to prepare hot meals for new arrivals for a period of one month.

### WASH

A total of 650 households have been reached through awareness sessions on hygiene promotion and the use of showers and latrines organised by NOURRIR. In parallel, cleaning activities around sheds and water points have taken place.

Access to water (200,000 liters per day) is ensured through a photovoltaic water pumping system installed by TGH, with the support of UNICEF, and powered by a generator provided by UNHCR's partner NOURRIR.

### Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Preparations to install new antennas and enhance internet connectivity at the new UNHCR office in Birao are ongoing.

## ETHIOPIA

### Highlights

- As of 17 September, 35,770 refugees and asylum-seekers (17,178 families), including 395 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia.
- As UNHCR and partners intensify efforts to contain the spread of the cholera outbreak in the Kumer refugee site, Amhara region, Oral Cholera Vaccination has begun, targeting individuals above one-year-old. Out of the 447 patients that were admitted in the Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC) since the start of the outbreak, 433 have recovered. Regrettably, nine deaths were recorded.
- The ongoing pause on food assistance is leading to increased protection risks and compelling refugees to engage in work under hazardous and precarious conditions.

### Response Overview

Over 98 per cent of the refugees fleeing the conflict in Sudan into Ethiopia crossed through 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, UNHCR and partners continue to extend protection and assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers.

UNHCR is intensifying efforts to contain the spread of the cholera outbreak in the Kumer settlement by bolstering the number of healthcare personnel, ensuring the provision of essential medical supplies, conducting community health outreach activities, and improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities.

Mobile and broadband internet remains disrupted in the Amhara region following the declaration of a state of emergency in early August, rendering communications very challenging.

### Population Movements

As of 17 September, 35,770 refugees and asylum-seekers (17,178 families) have crossed from Sudan into Ethiopia, of which 52.4 per cent came through the Metema entry point in Amhara; 45.7 per cent through the Kurmuk entry point in BSGR; and 2 per cent through different entry points in Gambella (Pagak and Burbiey). Most of these individuals are Sudanese (71%), followed by Eritreans (23.2%), South Sudanese (4.5%), Ethiopian returnees 395 (1.1%), and other nationalities (0.2%).

## Access

In Amhara, UNHCR staff, partners, 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 due to poor weather causing severed road conditions. Partners are preparing an assessment of the entry point. Refugee camps in BSGR are accessible, however, the access to IDPs/returnees in Metekel and Kemashi zones is intermittently restricted due to the security situation.

## Protection

In Metema, Amhara, 24 individuals have received counselling at the protection desks. The main areas of concern are health, including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), voluntary return, child protection and lack of CRIs. Due to the cholera outbreak in Kumer, the relocation of refugees and asylum-seekers from the Metema entry point to that site remains on hold, leading to prolonged stay of new arrivals at the entry point in harsh conditions.

A total of 1,255 refugees, including 439 girls have been identified and profiled to resume their primary and secondary education.

## Child Protection

In Amhara, UNHCR and partners continue to extend special protection support to 330 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC). During the reporting period, eight social workers and four members of the Child Welfare Committee underwent training in the Inter-Agency Referral system, while an additional 12 social workers benefited from mentorship sessions focused on enhancing their skills in identifying cases and facilitating referrals.

UNHCR's partner Plan International Ethiopia (PIE) continued to provide child protection services at the Kumer transit centre, BSGR, including providing children the opportunity to play and learn inside the Child-Friendly Centre.

## Gender-Based Violence Response

In Metema, Amhara, UNHCR's partner Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC) continued distributing flyers, providing key messages on prevention from GBV and cholera, as well as on services and support systems available in the different sites. DICAC has also provided individual counselling sessions for GBV survivors.

## Persons with Specific Needs

UNHCR and partners continue to closely monitor the protection and wellbeing of the 665 Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) sheltered at Kumer settlement as well as at the transit site in Metema. Home visits were made to monitor the living condition of some of the most vulnerable among them, with one person being provided with an auxiliary stick to aid their mobility.

## Health

As part of the response to the outbreak of cholera, partner organizations and refugee representatives in the Kumer site have benefitted from orientation and awareness-raising sessions on prevention methods. UNHCR and partners are constantly informing refugee and host communities about the risks and are trying to actively engage them to help contain the outbreak. UNHCR is doing active surveillance through home-to-home visits, case findings and linkages/referrals to the Cholera Treatment Centre. An oral rehydration point has been installed in the Kumer site by UNHCR's local partner, Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE).

These measures have led to a significant drop in the rate of infection during the last week where 54 new cholera cases were admitted at the Kumer Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC) compared to 149 cases the week before. Overall, 447 patients have been admitted to the CTC since the start of the outbreak in mid-August, of whom 433 patients (90.7%) have recovered and left the centre while nine have died.

Social workers have continued to conduct home-to-home active case finding and linking suspected individuals to the CTC. Health education, risk communication and social mobilization continued, providing the communities critical information on how to prevent further infections in the site.



In Kurmuk, an increase in malaria cases has been observed and there is an urgent need for malaria test kits and medications.

The Ethiopian Red Cross could not deploy their ambulance during last week due to lack of fuel, which requires an urgent resolution.

### **Food Assistance**

The regional Disaster Risk Management Office (DRMO), with support from the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), and local administration delivered additional food (wheat flour and cooking oil), kitchen sets and clothes to Kurmuk, targeting the new arrivals staying in three locations with the host communities.

### **Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)**

In Kurmuk, identification and verification of beneficiaries has kicked off for the distribution of multi-purpose cash assistance to 829 of the most vulnerable households.

### **Shelter / Site Development and Relocation**

In Kumer settlement, floor improvement and compaction of 25 transitional shelters in flood-prone areas of the camp have been completed, enabling 20 families to move in.

To date, 1,630 emergency shelters have been pitched at Kumer, currently sheltering over 9,700 refugees and asylum-seekers.

### **WASH**

Following the repair of a malfunctioning generator, the per capita water distribution at Kumer site and Metema transit centre has improved from 6.5 liters per person per day (l/p/d) and 8 l/p/d, respectively, to 10.03 l/p/d and 15.1 l/p/d. However, constant power outages have continued to limit the amount of water pumped every day.

Access to latrines remains limited in Kumer with the latrine to users ratio standing at 1:164, which is significantly higher than the minimum emergency standard (1 latrine to  $\leq$  50 persons). Three additional latrine blocks are under construction while more are planned to improve the situation.

Community Hygiene Promoters (CHPs) have continued conducting house-to-house awareness-raising on Cholera prevention in collaboration with Medical Teams International (MTI) and MSF-H.

## **EGYPT**

### **Highlights**

- There is a significant increase in the number of individuals registered with UNHCR who have irregularly crossed from Egypt to Libya. UNHCR records indicate that between January and August, 376 registered refugees and asylum-seekers crossed into Libya in the first eight months of 2023, compared to the 21 who did so in the same period in 2022. Likewise, ten times the number of Sudanese families crossed compared to the previous year. UNHCR has increased its community messaging on the risk of irregular crossing and the fragile situation in Libya.
- On 13 September, UNHCR delivered 150 computers and other IT equipment to the Ministry of Education to establish computer laboratories in 15 public schools in the Aswan region. The IT laboratories are anticipated to be ready for use before the 2023/2024 academic year starts on 30 September. The intervention aims to support the capacity-building of local public schools hosting refugee and asylum-seeker children who have fled the conflict in Sudan, as well as the quality of education.
- Three refugee students travel from Egypt to Belgium to pursue their master's degrees as part of a UNHCR pilot programme for complementary pathways, which offer refugees, including those fleeing the Sudan crisis, with alternatives to resorting to irregular means and harmful onward movement. The students, originally from South Sudan and Syria, will study at the Catholic University of Leuven and have been pre-assessed for eligibility for refugee status in Belgium. UNHCR Egypt has prioritized the expansion of complementary pathways as one of its main priorities, including for Sudanese refugees. It forms part of a pilot project implemented by UNHCR alongside the Government of Belgium, Caritas, and the Catholic University of Leuven. The pilot project is a part of EU-Passworld, a three-year project funded by the European Union linking community sponsorship to labour and education pathways, for which Egypt has been chosen in a pilot project.

- In a panel discussion at the annual meeting of the Arab Foundation Forum (AFF) philanthropic association, the UNHCR Representative highlighted how the private sector could play an increasingly important role in job creation, thereby contributing to the self-reliance for displaced people, including new arrivals from Sudan, and their host communities.
- A Sudanese and a Syrian refugee student participated in the COSIMENA Summer School in Cairo between 10 and 17 September and hereby exchanged ideas about inclusion with other students of diverse backgrounds from Egypt, other Arab countries, and Germany. The Summer School explored challenges and best practices in cross-cultural communication, including social and news media, film, arts, and tourism. It was organized by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), in collaboration with the Freie Universität Berlin, Ahrman Canadian University, and the German Embassy in Cairo. During the event, the 25 participants from ten different nationalities received training in innovative media production strategies and tools, such as multimedia storytelling and data visualization. In this year's edition, DAAD partnered with UNHCR to raise awareness about young talented refugees and to shed light on their experience fleeing their home countries and residing in Egypt. The students created a podcast and a short film about the life of refugees in Egypt that will be disseminated in the coming weeks. Projects like this enable refugee students to access new educational opportunities, including those who have fled violence in Sudan.
- On 15 September, UNHCR and UNFPA conducted a workshop on gender-based violence prevention, children's rights, and legal protection targeted at the Sudanese population in Karkar near Aswan. During the workshop, attended by 61 people, participants mentioned that accessing medical services in the region is challenging due to the lack of pharmacies and medicines. They also expressed concern about the difficulty of sending their children to school due to high fees. People moreover requested UNHCR support with transportation and accommodation to be able to reach Cairo and register. In other focus groups held in Aswan last week, Sudanese also mentioned livelihoods, cash assistance and psychosocial support for children as other important needs for new arrivals.

### Protection

The number of people calling UNHCR's Infoline has been increasing since the beginning of the Sudan crisis with 30,563 new arrivals from Sudan (12,000 households) receiving appointments via Infoline.

During last week (10-14 September), 5,961 total inquiries were handled by Infoline in Cairo. This means a 57% increase compared to the previous week. Of them, 1,465 new registration appointments (24.6%) were given to 3,237 people who had fled the Sudan conflict. The new registration appointment ratio over the total inquiries has increased by 11.9% compared to the week of 3 September, and this is due to the prioritization of the new registration appointment options for the new arrivals from Sudan.

### Registration

As of 15 September, UNHCR had provided pre-registration appointments to 83,306 newly arrived individuals (40,037 households), of whom 54,382 individuals (26,047 households) have already been registered. The majority are Sudanese nationals (90%), while the top three nationalities registered are South Sudanese (5%), Eritrean (3%) and Syrian (1%). Most Sudanese (88%) originate from Khartoum, while more than 4% are from Darfur region. In terms of documentation, 54% 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. In the past week, UNHCR Egypt provided emergency cash assistance to 6,528 people (2,478 households). Since the onset of the Sudan conflict, the total number of assisted individuals now stands at 41,759 (14,657 households).

UNHCR provides emergency cash assistance to new arrival Sudanese who fled to Egypt after the conflict in Sudan. 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 unregistered Sudanese.

### Health

According to UNHCR data on newly registered, the population of new arrivals has a disproportionate number of children, women, and older persons. The health needs are reflecting this demographic composition with a need for reproductive health care, care for childhood diseases, and treatments for chronic disorders associated with old age such as diabetes and hypertension. It is also believed that many of the persons who left Sudan at an early stage did so because they had medical needs that the collapsing Sudanese health system no longer could address. This is supported by reports of high numbers in need of hemodialysis and cancer treatment.

## IT/Telecommunications

After the onset of the Sudan crisis, IT services were rapidly rolled out to the Aswan UNHCR team, delivering not only internet access but also essential equipment to facilitate effective communication with the stakeholders and partners. Furthermore, to support registration activities in Cairo and Alexandria, network coverage was expanded, ensuring stable connectivity for uninterrupted protection services. In addition, UNHCR revamped its Infoline infrastructure with a significant increase in the connection channel capacity. Calls from Sudanese new arrivals were prioritized for rapid response. The consolidation of both the Cairo and Alexandria offices' Infoline services into a unified platform optimized accessibility.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### Highlights

- As of 17 September, a cumulative number of 262,298 individuals (61,263 households) have arrived in South Sudan with a majority still entering via Joda/Renk. South Sudanese returnees continue to comprise the majority of new arrivals (91%), followed by Sudanese (7%), and Eritrean (1%) refugees.
- Of the 26,981 registered refugees, 18,079 individuals have been biometrically registered.
- Between 11-15 September, IOM resumed Onward Transportation Assistance (OTA) from the Joda/Wunthow border areas to Renk, with over 3,000 refugees, returnees and asylum-seekers receiving transport support. OTA across reception locations is continuing at a consistent pace, with IOM tentatively planning for just over 69,000 movements between September and December 2023 across the operation.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers who have entered through the Panakuach border area to Rotriak have reported significant protection risks and violence endured during their flight from Sudan.

### Protection

Of 26,981 (38% female, 62% male) refugees and asylum-seekers registered, 18,079 have been biometrically registered (8,095 in Maban and 9,170 in Aweil), of which 635 have been registered in UNHCR's registration and case management system proGres.

A 33 per cent increase in new arrivals has been recorded at the Joda border entry point over the past week, of which almost 10,200 individuals are South Sudanese returnees and almost 800 individuals are Sudanese refugees who have fled the fighting in Khartoum.

Over 100 refugees and asylum-seekers from 30 households who have entered through the Panakuach border area to Rotriak have reported that they endured significant protection risks and violence during their flight from Sudan. Reports of escalating violence and combat between armed forces, high fees to guarantee transportation and protection are preventing individuals from reaching safety.

Accounts of GBV, including increased harassment and systematic rape of women and children as young as 8 years of age by armed forces and groups operating between Karasana and the border have been reported. Women facing a high risk of GBV when crossing via Panakuach is the reason for the low increase of new arrivals.

In Abyei area, new arrivals from Nyala reported that continued violence is the main reason for their flight and shared accounts of extortion, harassment, and interrogation during their flight.

The OTA delay has prompted independent movement of refugees. Predominantly youth are self-organising their journeys to Aweil and Wau.

In Maban, vandalism of shelters by new arrivals, predominantly single men, has been reported. The shelter materials are sold to finance onward travel to Renk or Juba.

IOM has reported two suspected cases of child trafficking at Malakal airport, organised by two adult males destined for Wau and Juba. The minors have been returned to the Transit Centre (TC) while the cases are being investigated by the TC committee to identify the relationship between the adults and the children.

In Aweil, the security situation remains relatively calm. However, on 14 September, a disagreement during a clothes distribution between an elderly man and youths resulted in tension, which required police to calm the situation.

The Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) and UNHCR received reports in Aweil of a stabbing and shooting incident, which resulted in the death of a refugee. Reportedly, intimidation, extortion and looting by armed forces have also taken place between Miran and Girinti around Wau.

### **Health and Nutrition**

Over 1,000 children under the age of five have been screened for malnutrition during the last week, of which 91 individuals have been identified with acute malnutrition. The acute malnutrition level (9.4%) is much lower compared to the previous week. The accumulative proxy acute malnutrition rate stands at 31 per cent in children (exceeding 15% WHO emergency standard). In Panakuach, an 18-month infant died enroute to Lalop to receive treatment for severe acute malnutrition and malaria.

During the last week at the Joda border area, a total of 608 children aged 6-59 months have received Vitamin A supplementation and 315 children aged 12-59 months have received deworming pills to prevent malnutrition.

In Maban, children with measles in isolation units have been enrolled in inpatient feeding programmes supported by WFP. In Aweil, there is currently no food service for inpatients in health facilities.

In Paloch, over 100 children have received vaccinations against childhood diseases.

Malaria remains the top cause of morbidity in refugee receiving locations, and in Renk it has begun to impact humanitarian workers.

In Renk, there has been a 78 per cent increase in health consultations over the last week, from 2,101 to 3,750. A total of 1,385 women have attended antenatal care services since the onset of the emergency. Mothers in their third trimester have received Clean Delivery Kits, mosquito nets and vitamins, and have been advised not to participate in onward movement until delivery.

### **Food Security**

Over 700 PSNs have received cash assistance for food at the Joda border area and transit sites in Renk and Abyei.

In Wedwil settlement in Aweil, the provided hot meal has changed from rice to sorghum, which has not been widely accepted by the refugees.

### **Water and Sanitation**

Water provision across the emergency response remains a key issue due to transportation and logistical challenges. In Renk, water provision has improved from eight to 12 litres per person per day, attributed to the additional 25,000 litres of water provided by Oxfam. Repair of the Renk Town municipal water system is at 50 per cent, which will allow delivery water directly to the TC and surrounding sites.

For sanitation, pit latrine ratios remained low across most new arrival hosting centres. The OTA pause has increased already high ratio of persons to latrine stances across refugee hosting areas and transit centres. In Renk, where the latrine ratio of persons to stance is at 178 persons per latrine, the construction of a new block of five stances at the TC has been completed by Ada and construction of four additional blocks of 20 stances by Oxfam is underway, which will improve sanitation facilities.

### **Shelter and NFI**

While OTA has resumed, movements are slow and have resulted in overcrowding in the shelters, presenting health concerns as WASH facilities remain insufficient and an increase in the practice of open defecation is taking place, which could lead to serious health outbreaks.

In Renk, more than 6,000 individuals are camping outside the TC in makeshift shelters in deplorable conditions due to the OTA pause. Construction at the TC extension site continues with a projected completion in December.

An additional communal shelter has been constructed in Renk and 11 emergency shelters provided in Malakal.

Heavy rains continue to impact temporary and emergency shelters across the emergency response.

### **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)**

In Renk, eight solar lights have been installed at the health clinic, which will enable night shift services to be reinstated and enhance access to healthcare for those residing in the TC area. The solar lights had previously been damaged by the heavy rains.

In Renk, the CCCM team has conducted a verification exercise to ascertain refugee needs and inform programming in the TC.

### **IT/Telecommunication**

In Renk, UNHCR provides around 50 humanitarian agencies with critical internet access. Recent upgrades to the wireless infrastructure have ensured improvements to all users, including other UN agencies and partners stationed or visiting the UNHCR office in Renk. UNHCR also extends internet services to incoming young refugees, ensuring they remain connected for university exams and other educational purposes.

In Renk, UNHCR will incorporate additional wireless access points to ensure consistent access throughout the premises to improve connectivity for colleagues and partners on the ground.

In Wedwil, UNHCR has established internet and network connectivity at the registration centre, enabling UNHCR Level 2 biometrics registration activities. This enhanced connectivity directly supports UNHCR and partners on the ground to do registration activities effectively.



## 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 1,004,761,779** 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. As of 18 September, a total funding of almost USD 266.4 million has been recorded or **27%** of the funding requirements.
- 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. As of 15 September, the total funding for the HRP had reached some USD 783 million or 31% of the requirements ([OCHA FTS](#)).

### Revised UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – May-December 2023

- On 4 September, UNHCR issued a revised [Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal \(May-December 2023\)](#) to reflect increased needs of **USD 506,528,613**. As of 18 September, the total available funding for the appeal was USD 153 million or **30%** of the funding requirements ([Sudan Situation Funding Update](#)).

## 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](#)).
- [Sudan Situation – UNHCR Health and Nutrition Update – September 2023](#)

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