

SUDAN SITUATION

18-25 September 2023



Sudanese children play in the UNHCR Registration Centre in Cairo while waiting to be registered as asylum-seekers in Egypt.
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Highlights

The ongoing clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that started on 15 April 2023 have continued for 163 days as of 25 September.

On 20 September, OCHA and UNHCR issued a [joint press release](#) in relation to a UN General Assembly event aiming to raise awareness on the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and its impact on the region. The video stream of the event can be found here: [The Cost of Inaction in Sudan: Working together in support of the Humanitarian Situation in Sudan and the Region](#). UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi's intervention at the UNGA event can be found [here](#).

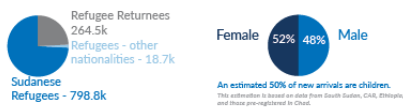
At the same event, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo [called on](#) the Sudanese national army and Rapid Support Forces to lay down their arms, underscoring that only a return to the negotiating table, *"to advance a meaningful ceasefire that would lead to a durable cession of hostilities"*, could end the suffering.

On 21 September, President Salva Kiir of South Sudan [called for support](#) to help ease the humanitarian crisis in neighbouring Sudan, appealing to the international community to push harder for peace.

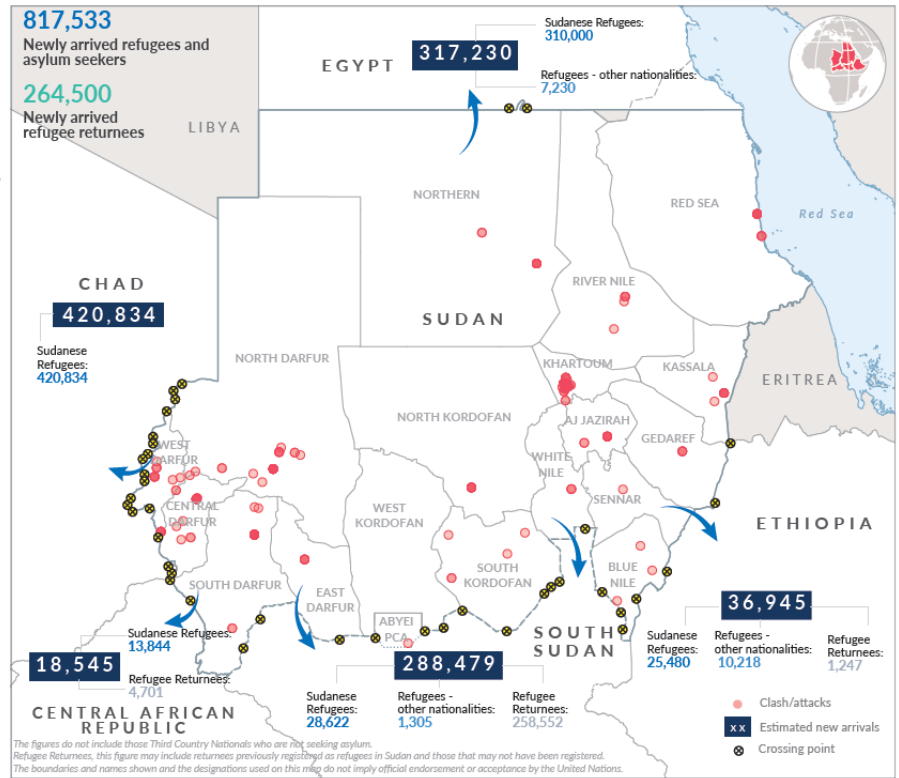
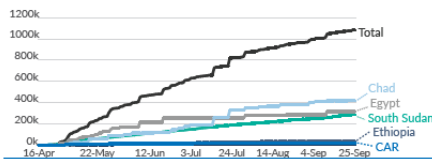
OVERVIEW: There are now over 5.5 million forcibly displaced due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, including 4.2 million internally and nearly 1.1 million in neighbouring countries. Sudan was already hosting large refugee populations before being impacted by this new emergency and, like hosting countries, 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.

5,502,817 Forcibly Displaced
4,232,840 IDPs in Sudan
1,082,033 Newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers and returnees
187,944 Self-relocated Refugees in Sudan

Arrivals by population and estimated gender type



New arrivals from Sudan



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- In Central Darfur, an attack in Hassahissa camp, Zalingei resulted in the death of one IDP and left two others seriously injured.
- In South Darfur, following the resumption of fighting, displacement of civilians from Nyala town to surrounding areas, as well to El Fasher and Ed Daein, have been reported.
- In East Darfur, starvation and hunger continue to be reported, highlighting the urgent need to respond to the dire situation of vulnerable refugees in Al Lait settlements.
- The cholera outbreak in Gedaref State has expanded to four new locations, including Gedaref town and West Gallabat.
- In Wad Madani, Jazirah State, generosity fatigue has reportedly been observed within the host community, following eviction incidents affecting refugees due to shrinking resources.
- In Wadi Halfa, Northern State, an increase in the movement of the population has been observed after the issuance of passports started in the city on 18 September.

Updates by Location

Khartoum

UNHCR continues to do remote protection monitoring through community outreach by volunteers and refugee representatives, who continue to report refugee casualties due to bombings in Khartoum.

Darfur

In Central Darfur on 22 September, an attack in Sector 8 of Hassahissa camp, Zalingei resulted in the death of one IDP and left two others seriously injured. Displacement of civilians from various areas of Zalingei also continues. Women and children are arriving daily with their belongings on donkey carts.

The estimated number of new IDPs in Hamidia camp, in addition to the pre-existing population, is approximately 35,000 individuals.

In Mornei/Ronga Tass, there is an estimated total of 235,000 IDPs, including both pre-existing IDPs and new arrivals from Mornei town and camps who are residing in three main gathering points near the Central Darfur border.

In West Darfur, distribution of IDPs displaced from Abu Suruj and Sirba town appears to be broader than previously reported, with reports indicating that IDPs are present across several villages and Bir Saliba town in Sirba locality.

UNHCR's partner the Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery (SORR) has conducted protection assessments in Kulbus town and three neighborhoods in El Geneina. Key findings in Kulbus include Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risks, with early/forced marriage and associated Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as particular concerns.

Key findings in El Geneina include the presence of Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO) in residential areas; high levels of trauma, with those affected by Conflict-related Sexual Violence (CRSV) in urgent need of support; lack of functioning community-based protection structures; and continued and pervasive insecurity.

In South Darfur, following the resumption of fighting between RSF and SAF from 22-24 September, displacement of civilians from Nyala town to surrounding areas, as well to El Fasher and Ed Daein have been reported.

SORR has conducted rapid assessment to identify Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) amongst the newly displaced IDPs in Kalma, Otash and Dereige IDP camps. They will identify PSN beneficiaries of Non-Food Items (NFIs) (plastic tarpaulins) after securing approval from Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in Nyala.

SORR has reported that there are improvements in the security situation within the IDP camps and no restrictions of movements of IDPs. Critical concerns are lack of basic services and harsh economic situation.

In East Darfur, operational partners have delivered clean water to four different refugee locations and settlements (Kario, El Nimir, Al Firdous and Abu Jabra). Health services also continue to be provided in the state.

In North Darfur, starvation and hunger continue to be reported in the region, highlighting the urgent need to respond to the dire situation of vulnerable refugees in Al Lait settlements.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been developed for the provision of multi-purpose cash assistance for refugees in Al Lait through a partner.

Port Sudan (Red Sea State)

UNHCR and ACOR Port Sudan are planning to start refugee verification and registration next week when new registration staff have arrived on mission.

Data collection has been finalized in preparation for the provision of Cash-Based Initiatives (CBI) in the gathering sites.

Kordofan States

The Ministry of Health and Social Development in Abu Jubayhah has reported on logistical challenges in delivering protection assistance in the area and has requested humanitarian agencies for support.

UNHCR's partner for WASH activities in Kordofan, International Aid Services (IAS), has distributed 1,500 personal hygiene kits in the Abu Jubayhah area and also planning to organize a water management training in Kharasana, West Kordofan.

White Nile State

UNHCR is engaging partners and the Refugee Working Group to provide assistance to some 700 South Sudanese individuals who have opted to stay in IDP gathering sites.

Blue Nile State

An inter-agency assessment of IDPs in the gathering sites in Damazine has taken place. UNHCR plans to distribute 350 NFI kits to IDP families in one of the locations in Damazine based on the assessment findings.

UNHCR has recently concluded the distribution of NFI kits to 300 newly displaced IDP households in five different locations in Rusayris locality.

Gedaref

UNHCR and the Sudanese Commission for Refugees (COR) are undertaking a joint mission to Gallabat border crossing point, mainly to concretize the timely relocation of new arrivals and address protection issues. Authorities report that at least 1,250 Sudanese persons have returned to Sudan. Previously, they were in a camp in Ethiopia but returned to Sudan due to inadequate food and medical support. Reportedly, they had crossed into Ethiopia due to rumors of resettlement opportunities.

UNHCR has handed over 120 sets of school desks to a host community school as a part of strengthening local social services and improving social cohesion.

The cholera outbreak in the state has expanded to four other locations, including Gedaref town and West Gallabat.

Kassala

UNHCR, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), and the State Ministry of Social Welfare are in discussion on the potential synchronization of data collected by UNHCR and SRCS on registration of IDPs, assessment of needs, vulnerabilities (identifying PSNs) and intentions. Upon data compilation and finalization, the data will be disseminated to stakeholders to inform programming.

Wad Madani (Jazirah State)

During protection monitoring, generosity fatigue has been observed within the host community, following eviction incidents affecting refugees due to shrinking resources.

Discussions with the shelter partner are ongoing to explore the possibility of rolling out a cash for shelter project, targeting host community members.

Wadi Halfa (Northern State)

UNHCR has provided training to Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) staff on operational protection and protection tools.

An increase in the movement of the population to Wadi Halfa and the Northern State has been observed after the issuance of passports started in the city on 18 September.

Concerning the situation of individuals deported from Egypt, UNHCR and IOM will determine if transportation from the border to Wadi Halfa and places of origin could be provided, also in coordination with SRCS which currently tracks and monitors deportation incidents.

Cross-Border Operations

SORR has completed the assessment and verification of NFI beneficiaries in Ardamata, West Darfur and is distributing tokens to the selected beneficiaries.

Distribution sites in Ardamata (Ardamata High School for Girls and Asma Bint Abubaker Basic School for Girls) have been confirmed.

CHAD

Highlights

- As of 22 September, a total of 420,834 refugees have been counted by UNHCR in eastern Chad.
- A total of 176,861 individuals (42% of new arrivals) have been relocated to the seven existing refugee camps, where extensions areas have been set up and basic amenities constructed, as well as to four newly established camps.
- As of 22 September, 34,446 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 22 September, 176,861 individuals (47,654 households) have been relocated to safer areas away from the border.

Refugees have been relocated to existing and new camps in the provinces of Ouaddaï (114,328 individuals), Sila (46,340 individuals) and Wadi Fira (16,193 individuals) through 226 convoys.

Protection

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) works on identification of separated and unaccompanied children and family reunification in Adré, Metché, and Arkoum.

The birth registration programme implemented by *Agence Nationale des Titres Sécurisés* (ANATS), the Chadian agency responsible for civil documentation, in collaboration with UNICEF and UNHCR has recorded 1,309 births as of 14 September. About 380 unregistered children have been identified in Gaga, Arkoum and Adré (Ouaddaï), and information will be shared with ANATS for birth registration consideration.

Health and Nutrition

In total, 75,076 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.

To date, 48,797 children, aged 6-59 months, have been screened for global acute malnutrition. A total of 9,326 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and 5,327 cases of severe acute malnutrition have been treated.

So far, 9,752 pregnant and breastfeeding women have been screened and 1,083 cases of moderate acute malnutrition have been treated.

Shelter Infrastructure and WASH

As of 25 September, 34,446 family shelters, 163 sheds, and 5,127 latrines and showers have been constructed across Ouaddaï, Sila, and Wadi Fira.

A total of 21 functional boreholes have been built in Ouaddaï and Sila.

IT/Telecommunication

To enhance safety of staff working in remote locations, the coverage of a crucial communication network has been expanded to cover a larger area and facilitate communication through satellite phones.

Internet connectivity services in several UNHCR offices, including Abeche, Farchana, Goz-Beida, and Iriba, have been enhanced and connectivity has been upgraded in Adré and the Hadjer Hadid field office to support colleagues in vital tasks, including registration in the refugee camps.

Internet services have also been extended to UNHCR's humanitarian partners.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Highlights

- On 23 September, UNHCR launched a participatory assessment with focus group discussions with over 200 refugees, returnees, and members of the host community of various ages and gender, to ensure the needs and capacities of all segments of the population were captured.
- As of 25 September, a total of 1,935 individuals have relocated to Korsi, where registration is ongoing, and assistance is being provided.
- UNHCR's partner NOURRIR has finalized the construction work on the infirmary and the maternity ward.
- A total of 358 children, aged 0-59 months, have been reached through a polio vaccination campaign, also receiving vitamin A supplements.
- A total of 494 people, aged 15 and above, have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Korsi.

Response Overview

Since the beginning of the crisis, some 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.

To date, a total of 1,935 individual have relocated to Korsi.

Registration

A total of 9,310 persons have so far been biometrically registered. In total, 711 assistance cards and 246 family certificates have been issued and distributed.

Protection

UNHCR's partner INTERSOS has carried out 33 protection monitoring visits to refugees and host community in Korsi and 12 in Birao (Nguérendomo, Rounga, Laména, Abodja, Ardo, Djamal districts and the Birao health district), to collect data, document any report on protection accidents, and assess the populations' protection needs.

During last week, 99 women and girls attended three group counseling sessions on hygiene in Korsi. A total of 102 women and girls have benefitted from daily life skills activities including mat-making, knitting, braiding and basket making sessions. These activities helped women to get closer to each other and share the emotional burden they are carrying because of displacement.

To date, a total of 595 girls and women have been using the listening center that is operated by INTERSOS in Korsi.

A joint UNHCR and INTERSOS mission has taken place to identify areas for market gardening activities.

Over 200 women and girls have been reached through awareness raising sessions on GBV in Korsi.

INTERSOS has organised awareness sessions in Korsi to raise knowledge on the existing complaint management mechanism, reaching 196 men, women, boys and girls.

WASH

In Korsi, areas for the construction of 13 showers and latrines blocks have been identified by UNHCR's partner NOURRIR.

Health and nutrition

During last week, NOURRIR, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), International Medical Corps (IMC), Work Health Organization (WHO) and the Health District have carried out 387 medical consultations. Malaria, watery diarrhea, digestive bacterial infections, and acute respiratory infections are the main pathologies recorded.

A total of 24 prenatal consultations and 11 postnatal consultations have been carried out last week.

Education

Support courses for refugee children are ongoing in the two schools in Birao to ensure their smooth inclusion into the national system.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- As of 24 September, 36,945 refugees and asylum-seekers (17,634 families), including 1,247 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia.
- Significant progress has been made to halt the spread of cholera in Kumer settlement, with only five infections reported during the last week. All patients were treated and discharged from the treatment centre.
- A total of 5,904 persons have received Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) at Kumer settlement, Metema entry point, and Metema transit site.
- The ongoing pause in food assistance is leading to increased protection risks and compelling refugees to engage in work under hazardous and precarious conditions.

Response Overview

UNHCR Representative in Ethiopia visited the border entry points in Metema (Amhara region) and Kurmuk (Benishangul-Gumuz region, BSGR) to assess the situation, needs, and overview the response effort. The Representative also visited different sites hosting refugees and asylum-seekers, and met with various stakeholders, including the Ethiopian Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), local government authorities, partners, refugees, and refugee representatives, with the aim to seek ways to further strengthen the effectiveness of the response.

Some of the expressed key gaps include security concerns in Amhara; continued suspension of food aid and its impact on the wellbeing of the refugees and asylum-seekers; and the urgent need for the expansion of key sectors, including health and education.

Population Movements

As of 24 September, 36,945 refugees and asylum-seekers (17,634 families) have crossed into Ethiopia from Sudan. Of these, 50.9 per cent crossed through the Metema entry point in Amhara; 44.3 per cent through the Kurmuk entry point in BSGR; 2.5 per cent through different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey); and 2.3 per cent Ethiopian returnees in Tigray. Most of these people are Sudanese (69%), followed by Eritreans (22.4%), South Sudanese (5%), Ethiopian returnees (3.4%), 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 severed road conditions. Partners are preparing an assessment of the entry point.

Refugee camps in BSGR are accessible but access to IDPs/returnees in Metekel and Kemashi zones is intermittently restricted due to the security situation.

Protection

In Metema, Amhara, 32 individuals have received counselling at the protection desks, raising concerns around malnutrition of children, the need to reinstate cooked meals at the border (suspended due to budget constraints), and relocation to Kumer settlement. Ten individuals were referred to the health facilities for medical attention. The relocation of refugees and asylum-seekers to Kumer settlement remains on hold due to the outbreak of cholera. Relocation will resume once the outbreak is fully under control.

In Metema, 107 refugee students, including 26 girls, have been provided with information on the Mastercard Scholarship programme for undergraduate and graduate studies and encouraged to apply.

Child Protection

In Kurmuk (BSGR), 483 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC) are benefitting from protection and basic services. This includes determining their best interests, tracing their families, providing foster care, healthcare, and supplementary feeding.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) has successfully traced two families of UASC who were separated during their flight from Sudan.

A total of 158 caregivers of UASC and OVC have been referred to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) for inclusion in the upcoming Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance.

In Metema, UNHCR and partners are actively supporting 332 UASC with ongoing home visits to monitor their care and living conditions. Additionally, 50 children have benefitted from Psychological Support First Aid (PFA), while 37 children have been temporarily placed in care arrangements, and 52 were referred to NRC for shelter assistance.

Gender-Based Violence Response

In Metema, UNHCR's partner Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC) has conducted mass awareness sessions on GBV and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), reaching 250 individuals.

Persons with Specific Needs

In Amhara, nine Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) have been identified during the last week, bringing the total number of PSNs identified so far to 674. UNHCR and partners have continued to closely monitor their protection and wellbeing, providing specialized assistance where feasible.

Health

The effort to stop the spread of cholera at Kumer settlement has successfully continued, with only five new infections recorded during the reporting week compared to 54 cases the previous week. All patients received treatment and were discharged from the Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC). Currently, there are no active cases at the CTC.

In collaboration with the Woreda Health Office, Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) started at the Metema entry point, transit site and in Kumer settlement, already reaching 5,904 individuals (above the age of 1).

In Kurmuk, partner GOAL finalized preparations to launch nutrition services in the Akendayo kebele, reaching refugees and asylum-seekers who are staying with the host communities.

Shortage of anti-malaria drugs and other essential medications, as well as an inadequate supply of *Plumpy'Nut* therapeutic food for the treatment of child malnutrition, have continued to afflict the delivery of health services in Kurmuk.

For the second week in a row, the ambulance operated by the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) has been unable to provide transportation at the Kurmuk transit centre due to lack of fuel.

Shelter/Site Development and Relocation

In Kurmuk (BSGR), a committee constituted by the Regional President finalized assessment of different locations suitable for the establishment of a new settlement. The committee submitted its recommendations to the President, whose feedback is expected in the coming week.

A total of 16 emergency shelters have been completed in Sherkole camp and handed over to refugees during the last week.

At the entry point in Kurmuk, UNHCR's partner Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) has done maintenance on six communal shelters and a shaded waiting area.

In Kumer (Amhara region), clearing and levelling is ongoing to install additional shelters to accommodate 600 new arrivals.

WASH

The per capita water distribution at Kumer site and Metema transit centre stood at 9.4 liters per person per day (l/p/d), and 13.5 l/p/d, respectively. Partner MSF-Holland is planning to repair three generators at Gendewuha and Kokit water sources to enhance the water supply that has been hampered by incessant power cuts.

Partners Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) and MSF-Holland are constructing 13 latrine blocks in Kumer site, which is expected to improve the sanitation situation. Of those, IHS has completed construction of two blocks during the last week.

Community Hygiene Promoters (CHPs) continued with house-to-house awareness-raising on cholera prevention, in collaboration with Medical Teams International (MTI) and MSF-Holland.

IT/Telecommunication

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.

In BSGR, the mobile and internet networks have remained highly unreliable with frequent and prolonged disruptions, which is hampering coordination with partners and limiting access to services by refugees and asylum-seekers.

EGYPT

Highlights

- On 21 September, a high-level workshop in Cairo, co-organized by the Government of Egypt (GoE) and UNHCR, marked the formal launch of the planning process for the 2024 Egypt Refugee Response Plan (ERP). The 2024 Egypt ERP will outline how humanitarian and development organizations will address the needs of all refugee populations in Egypt, as well as host communities and other affected populations. Currently, Egypt hosts more than 350,000 officially registered refugees and asylum-seekers of 59 nationalities, mostly concentrated in Greater Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, and other north coast governorates. The main nationalities are Sudanese, Syrian and South Sudanese. The workshop represented the opportunity to further build on the strong partnership between GoE and the international community. In attendance was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, several government line ministries, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the UN Country Team, the World Bank, INGO representatives, and the ambassadors of Australia, Belgium, the European Union, Germany, Netherlands, and the United States.
- So far in September, UNHCR has received 1,457 calls to its Infoline service, representing a significant 50 per cent increase compared to the 933 calls handled daily before the Sudan influx. The increase is a response to the restructuring of the helpline by UNHCR to respond to the growing demand for information from new arrivals from Sudan. The Helpline now has an additional eight helpline operators with 12 more expected soon, to bring the total number to 30 (22 in Alexandria and 8 in Cairo). The number of phone channels will also be increased from 60 to 90 in October, while the Cairo and Alexandria lines have already been merged to provide more efficient service. UNHCR will launch a 24-hour automatic voice response system in early October with practical information on accessing services quicker without having to queue. It will also allow operators to screen calls to focus on the most urgent cases.
- UNHCR continues to expand registration facilities for Sudanese and has recently refocused efforts on enhancing its 6 October City reception centre where Sudanese nationals are registered. A new Rubb Hall has been added to the existing reception facilities to help ensure the provision of registration appointments for the approximately 1,000 individuals requesting new and continuous registration appointments every day. Additional construction work aimed at improving waiting areas and the overall registration environment is ongoing and will include the installation of an additional Rubb Hall and more interview rooms.

Protection and Registration

UNHCR met with Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers at separate meetings on 14 and 15 September in Cairo and Aswan to hear the latest concerns expressed by communities.

In a meeting in Karkar near Aswan, 61 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers told UNHCR of needs ranging from access to medical services and a lack of pharmacies and medicine in the region, difficulty sending children to school due to high fees, support with transportation and accommodation to reach Cairo and register with UNHCR, few livelihood prospects, and the need for increased cash assistance and psychosocial support for children for new arrivals. In Cairo, refugees and asylum-seekers raised other concerns including waiting times for first-time registration appointments and the protection risks arising from registration waiting times that can sometimes be up to four months.

As of 22 September, UNHCR had provided pre-registration appointments to 88,889 newly arrived individuals (42,889 households), of whom 58,728 individuals (28,752 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.

Livelihoods

UNHCR is exploring financial inclusion options for Sudanese refugees and others. The UNHCR Representative met with the director of money transfer service IBAG, the Western Union's representative in Egypt, to discuss refugee inclusion into its financial systems. It follows a decision by the Central Bank to recognize UNHCR registration cards as a formal means of identification to present alongside residency permits to enable refugees and asylum-seekers to collect remittances. UNHCR and IBAG are working on a communications plan to sensitize the refugee community on this positive development to encourage other entities to facilitate the financial inclusion of forcibly displaced persons. Since the conflict in Sudan, 45,000 Sudanese individuals have only been able to collect remittances from Western Union in Egypt using their passports. Until now this had excluded many refugees and asylum-seekers without the correct documentation from accessing much needed funds.

UNHCR continues its assessment of livelihood opportunities for new arrivals from Sudan in southern Egypt. On 19 September, a UNHCR Livelihoods team from Cairo visited local organizations in Karkar that had recently received sewing machines and other materials from UNHCR. The mission emphasized the importance of creating marketing opportunities for the association's products in local markets. Furthermore, it recommended initiating discussions with Aswan authorities to allow these products to be sold at local fairs.

Cash Assistance

UNHCR is accelerating the cash assistance delivery to new arrivals from Sudan. Since the beginning of September, UNHCR Egypt provided emergency cash assistance to 6,110 people (17,277 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.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- As of 24 September, a cumulative number of 283,211 individuals (66,014 households) have arrived in South Sudan with 9,300 individuals (2,218 households) arriving in the period 18-24 September. This marks a slight decrease from the week before when 10,000 individuals arrived. Some 91 per cent of the arrivals last week entered via Joda/Renk. South Sudanese returnees continue to comprise the majority of new arrivals (91%), followed by Sudanese (7%), and Eritrean (1%) refugees.
- Within this figure, a total of 29,927 refugees and asylum-seekers have arrived, whereas the rest are South Sudanese returnees.
- UNHCR is continuing engagement with community leaders, partners, and the Renk County Executive Director to ensure a sustainable resolution to a grievance raised by the local community regarding the land demarcated for the extension of Renk Transit Centre. Once resolved, the proposed site is expected to accommodate over 1,000 individuals and help decongest the existing centre currently hosting over 9,000 individuals.
- UNHCR and partners are closely monitoring a steady increase in the malnutrition rate among children arriving via the Panakuach border point over the last three weeks. Some 21 out of the 44 children (48%) screened were malnourished. This is compared with the cumulative rate of 20 per cent in Panakuach since the start of the crisis response. UNHCR and partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are leading efforts to further strengthen referral mechanisms for proper case management in response.
- Heavy rain and flooding continue to interrupt service delivery, water provision and onward movement in Renk, Maban, Bentiu and Abyei. In Bentiu, Rotriak is no longer accessible by road and standard operating procedures are being drafted to coordinate access via boat. The onward movement of refugees from Abyei to Aweil and Renk to Maban continues to be hindered by flooding and poor road conditions.

Protection

UNHCR has observed a deterioration in the security situation in Bentiu and Abyei. In Bentiu there were reports of shooting resulting in one casualty and an armed ambush of an oil company vehicle on the road between Rotriak and Panakuach. In Abyei, UNHCR have received reports of recurrent intercommunal violence between youths. Both locations host a considerable number of new arrivals who may be impacted should insecurity in these areas escalate.

UNHCR is continuing to monitor a trend in spontaneous departures from reception centres and designated camps/settlements. In the last week, approximately 30-40 youths reportedly left Wedwil Settlement in Aweil, intending to proceed to Europe via Libya, return to Sudan, or continue to other locations in South Sudan. Most cited a lack of livelihoods and education opportunities as reasons for their departure. This has raised concerns of the protections risks they may face including forced conscription upon return to Sudan.

Registration of newly arrived refugees is continuing in Maban, Gorum, Jamjang and Aweil. So far, 66 per cent of the 29,927 new arrivals of refugee and asylum-seekers have been biometrically registered.

In Malakal, an intention survey initiated by UNHCR and partners, reached 674 returnees (94 families) who have been at the transit centre for over three weeks. The majority confirmed that their indefinite stay at the transit centre was due to their inability to return to their areas of origin due to insecurity or poor road access.

Onward Transportation

UNHCR has successfully provided onward transportation for 926 refugees and asylum-seekers last week. There is still a need to resume transportation assistance for over 450 refugees in Abyei Transit Centre awaiting relocation and approximately 40 refugees awaiting relocation in Paloich as soon as weather conditions permit.

Despite efforts to improve road conditions between Maban and Renk, recent assessments indicate a further deterioration of the 23-kilometre road, caused by recent flooding. This will inevitably delay the transportation of refugees from Renk to Maban.

In Renk, the flow of arrivals continues to outnumber onward movement with 9,000 new arrivals and only 3,000 departures onward during the week.

Health and Nutrition

Nutrition: 1,922 children under the age of five have been screened for malnutrition, with 16 per cent diagnosed as acutely malnourished across transit and reception centers. This is slightly higher than last week when nine per cent of the cases were recorded as acutely malnourished.

In Panakauch there has been a steady increase in the malnutrition rate among children over the last three weeks. During last week, 21 out of the 44 children screened were found to be malnourished (48% malnutrition rate). Cumulatively, the malnutrition rate among new arrivals screened in Panakuach is 20 per cent (GAM rate identified by measuring mid upper arm circumference (MUAC)).

Health and nutrition partner IRC is coordinating with partners in Lalop to further strengthen referral mechanisms for proper case management.

Health: The death rate across reception and transit centers remains low with five deaths (3 in Paloich and 2 in Renk) reported this week, which is a decrease compared to the first week of the month when 14 deaths were recorded.

In Renk, the daily crude mortality rate was 0.2/10,000, which is below the emergency threshold of 1/10,000 per day.

The top morbidities remain malaria, acute watery diarrhea, and acute respiratory infection, except in Abyei where typhoid featured among the top three morbidities. The health situation in Abyei is particularly concerning, with 29 cases referred to the nearest hospital this week.

Food Security

WFP has continued the provision of cash assistance for food at border, reception and transit sites in Aweil, Malakal, Maban, and Abyei, reaching approximately 4,044 new arrivals. Significant food assistance needs persist in Abyei and Paloich.

In Gorom, rice has been distributed to 8,704 refugees (both new arrivals and the preexisting caseload) by NGO ForAfrika to supplement the 50 per cent cash ration provided by WFP.

Water and Sanitation

Water provision averaged between 8 to 13 litres per person per day, falling below the emergency standard of 15 litres per person. This shortage was most significant in Paloich (8 litres per person). Additional water provision challenges were observed in Renk where two partners have indicated their inability to continue water trucking after the end of September.

In Abyei, UNHCR and South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) have negotiated access to water from the local primary school as road conditions have impeded water trucking efforts by the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) over the last two weeks.

Latrine coverage ranged between 20 to 450 individuals per latrine, falling short of the emergency standard in all locations except Panakauch (20 individuals per latrine) and highest in Abyei (450 individuals per latrine). UNHCR is constructing an additional latrine to ease the pressure in Abyei.

Shelter and NFI

NFIs: UNHCR led and coordinated the distribution of NFIs to over 1,000 refugee-, returnee- and host community families last week (63 families in Abyei and 957 families in Bentiu).

Shelter: Efforts to reduce overcrowding at transit centers continue, with construction ongoing for three semi-permanent communal shelters in Abyei. At present, the site has only one communal shelter, housing 18 of the approximate 80 households at the site, awaiting relocation.

In Malakal, rapid assessments have determined a need for additional shelters to house some 804 individuals (138 families) currently sleeping out in the open.

In Renk, UNHCR has identified over 6,000 individuals sheltering in makeshift structures surrounding the transit center and determined that an additional 60 communal shelters will be required to meet current needs in accordance with emergency standards.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Construction at the extension site in Renk has been halted due to a land dispute matter. Engagement with community leaders and the Renk County Executive Director is ongoing to find a sustainable way forward.

In Renk, UNHCR conducted a headcount to collect accurate demographic, which is crucial for site management, planning and targeting, focusing on sheltered households and children under the age of five. The results showed approximately 11,000-12,000 individuals (1,697 households and 2,749 children under five) residing at the site.

IT/Telecommunication

UNHCR and WFP are trying to enhance radio communication services in Renk, including at the airport/landing strip, aiming to bolster staff safety and security.

In Renk, UNHCR continues to extend internet services to UN agencies, NGOs and refugees enrolled in university.

Upgrades to IT services are also underway in Wedwil Refugee Settlement to optimize internet speed and support the scale-up of biometric registration.

In Renk, adjustments are ongoing to mitigate weather related signal interference.

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 25 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 25 September, the total funding for the HRP had reached some USD 807 million or 31.5% 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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