



Sudan Emergency Six-month Impact Update

As of 6 November 2023

Thank you for your support

On behalf of the people we serve, and all of us at UNHCR, thank you for your support and solidarity with people forced to flee the crisis in Sudan.

With your contribution, millions of people have been reached with life-saving assistance, protection and supplies.

Your continued support to people forced to flee remains as important today as ever.

Key figures

Affected populations

Since 15 April, more than **6 million people have been forcibly displaced** within Sudan and across borders into neighbouring countries (Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan).

- As of 27 October, the total number of new arrivals to neighbouring countries is 1,171,822 – of them 297,209 individuals are returning refugees.
- Over 4.8 million people have been displaced inside Sudan.

Funding

The United Nations and its partners are calling for **US \$3.6 billion** to help millions of people in Sudan and hundreds of thousands fleeing to neighbouring countries.

- The [Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan](#) has been revised due to the soaring needs of the current crisis. It now requires \$2.56 billion to help 18 million people until the end of 2023, making it the largest ever appeal issued for Sudan.
- The [Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan](#), issued in May and revised latest in August, seeks US \$1 billion to support more than 1.8 million people expected to arrive in five neighbouring countries by the end of 2023, fleeing ongoing conflict in Sudan.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency issued a [Supplementary Appeal](#) in June 2023 and revised in August, which amounts to US \$506.5 million. By September 2023, UNHCR's response was funded at 30 per cent, leaving an indicative funding gap of \$355,517,774.

Humanitarian context

On 15 April, fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and paramilitary group Rapid Support Forces (RSF) broke out in Sudan and has continued relentlessly ever since. The violence has killed hundreds of people, wounded thousands and devastated neighbourhoods, buildings, and key infrastructure. There have been reports of grave human rights abuse, civilians being targeted, looting and ethnic attacks.

In just six months, nearly 6 million people have been forced to flee – an average of 1 million people per month. Over 4.8 million people have been displaced inside Sudan adding to the more than 3 million who were internally displaced before the conflict. Sudan hosted more than 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers in the country, mainly from South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Over 1.1 million people have fled to neighbouring countries (Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan) in search of safety.

Inside Sudan, the impact of the conflict is dire in the locations directly affected but it goes beyond to the rest of country that is witnessing mass displacement. Sudan now has one of the largest and fastest-growing internal displacement situations in the world. Displaced people are struggling with food, water, and fuel shortages, blackouts, and lack access to education and healthcare. Since the start of the rainy season, as flooding brings an increase in water-borne diseases, they face deadly outbreaks of cholera, diarrhoea, dengue fever and malaria. At the same time, months of fighting in Sudan have brought the country's health-care system to its knees. Many health facilities have come under attack and are no longer functioning, while others are critically short of staff, medicines and equipment. Nearly 25 million people – half the population – are now vulnerable and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and protection. However, access to life-saving assistance and services are still limited due to the complex security situation.

Conditions in neighbouring countries are also critical. Those crossing borders, most of them women and children, are arriving to remote areas with nothing and in desperate need of food, water, shelter, and medical care. Psychosocial support for parents and children who have witnessed or experienced appalling violence is another priority, as is responding to disease outbreaks and high rates of malnutrition. Overcrowding is another concern as mass displacement continues. Prior to this crisis, all the neighbouring countries were already hosting large numbers of refugees and internally displaced people on insufficient and dwindling levels of humanitarian funding. At the same time, countries like Chad and South Sudan were battling hunger, insecurity, and the impacts of climate change.

Millions of people have already been forced from their homes by the war in Sudan, and each day more and more must run to seek safety. They need urgent help – humanitarian assistance to keep them alive, but also emergency development interventions to provide conditions and opportunities to live with dignity where they are until they can return home. But above all, they need the guns to fall silent and for this senseless war to stop.”

Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

UNHCR's emergency response

Since the start of the Sudan crisis, UNHCR emergency teams have been working with governments and partners to provide protection and humanitarian assistance in Sudan and neighbouring countries. Immediate support includes pre-registration and registration activities, providing core relief items, and relocating people to safer locations further away from the borders. As more needs unfold, UNHCR continues to provide life-saving assistance to respond to the precarious situation and long-term solutions to help displaced people rebuild life.

Together with government counterparts, UNHCR leads or co-leads refugee coordination structures, ensuring that joint assessments, monitoring and reporting on progress, communication and information-sharing tools are put in place in coordination with the governments and Regional Refugee Response Plan partners.

SUDAN

UNHCR continues to observe complex movements of people forced to flee conflicts inside Sudan. Most of the newly displaced are from Khartoum and have taken refuge in River Nile, East Darfur, Northern, Southern Darfur, Sennar, and White Nile States. The humanitarian and security situation in Sudan remains as challenging as ever, with heightened protection risks regarding serious violations of human rights, gender-based violence, social cohesion concerns, and restricted access to assistance. While civilians continue to face restrictions in accessing safety outside of Sudan, there have been reports of refugees prematurely returning home still facing instability and insecurity.

Protection

- In areas where the security situation permits, such as Gedaref, Kassala, White Nile, and Blue Nile states, UNHCR has strengthened its operations to continue providing protection and assistance to refugees and to respond to new displacement patterns.
- UNHCR has established new offices in Port Sudan, Wad Madani, and Wadi Halfa, where our teams and partners are assisting refugees, internally displaced and other affected Sudanese people.

Health and Nutrition

- UNHCR has established mortality surveillance including daily grave count in respective locations following increased reported deaths in the refugee camps in White Nile State
- UNHCR and other UN agencies provided medical kits to health centres, with more distributions planned. UNHCR fast-tracked delivery of medicines and medical supplies.
- UNHCR supported the Ministry of Health in conducting a measles vaccination campaign. 6,395 children were reached in the first round of the campaign in July and 45,514 children under five were vaccinated in the second round in August. In addition, a total of 38,977 individuals were screened to assess nutritional status.



Um Sangour primary health care facility - the only health facility that is used to support the whole camp population. This health facility now receives 700 patients daily. © UNHCR/Ala Kheir

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Since the beginning of the crisis, 23,569 people have arrived in CAR, including 18,868 Sudanese refugees and 4,701 Central African returnees, with the majority being women and children. Registration of new arrivals is ongoing, and assistance is being delivered.

Protection

- 9,512 persons have been biometrically registered, 91 per cent of them are women and children.
- 852 assistance cards and 191 family certificates were issued and distributed by UNHCR, allowing families access to food, core relief items and health services.
- UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS have conducted 34 awareness raising sessions on gender-based violence, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse to reaching 980 people (148 men, 370 women, 194 boys and 268 girls).
- 200 cases of gender-based violence have received psychosocial support, and 1,027 hygiene kits were distributed to women and girls.
- UNHCR established a listening center called "Ma Mbi Si " (center for the provision of psychosocial assistance, case management, and referrals to other services). Since the establishment of this center, 666 people have come to seek assistance, including 73 women from the host community.



An awareness-raising session on GBV for Sudanese refugee women at the Korsi site in Birao. © INTERSOS

Health

- A total of 358 children, aged 0-59 months, have been reached through a polio vaccination campaign, and they also received vitamin A supplements.
- A total of 494 people, aged 15 and above, have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Korsi.

CHAD

More than 442,000 refugees have crossed to eastern Chad. Refugees are living in makeshift shelters with limited access to basic services. Hosting the largest number of refugees and asylum seekers from Sudan, Chad is struggling to absorb the rising influx of displaced people.

Protection

- A total of 90,506 individuals (25,916 households) have been biometrically registered, 85 per cent of whom are women and children, and 17 per cent of whom are persons with specific needs.
- A total of 181,917 individuals have been relocated to safer areas away from the borders, bringing the total of new arrivals relocated to 40 per cent.
- As of 20 October, a total of 1,994 children – including separated and unaccompanied refugee children and other children-at-risk – have been documented in Ouaddai, Wadi Fira and Sila Provinces. On a case-by-case basis, the children are referred to receive psychosocial, medical, and legal support.
- UNHCR has extended protection services to 176,861 individuals.

Health and Nutrition

- A total of 125,926 medical consultations have been carried out since the start of the crisis, the most common pathologies include malaria, acute respiratory infections, malnutrition and watery diarrhoea.
- 6,863 mental health cases have received consultation and treatment.
- 11,494 pregnant and breastfeeding women have been screened, with 1,291 cases of moderate acute malnutrition identified.

Shelter

- A total of 35,743 shelters, 163 sheds, and 5,211 latrines and showers have been constructed in camps in Wadi Fra, Sila, and Ouaddai districts.
- A total of 24 boreholes have been built and are functional in Ouaddai and Sila, to ensure refugees have access to water.



The refugee spontaneous site of Adré, hosting over 140,000 Sudanese refugees. © UNHCR/Bockarie Kallon

EGYPT

Egypt has received the second-largest number of Sudanese fleeing the fighting — 330,000, according to the official figures. Like other neighbouring countries impacted by the crisis, Egypt was already hosting a large refugee population. Most refugees, including the new arrivals from Sudan, are living in urban areas of Cairo and North Coast Governorates. UNHCR and partners are providing them with protection and are scaling up the delivery of cash assistance to the most vulnerable.

Protection

- UNHCR has been providing assistance and counselling through its reception areas in Greater Cairo and Alexandria and in-house Infoline.
- More than 124,000 newly arrived people from Sudan have approached UNHCR for registration in-person. Close to 87,000 persons were prioritized and registered while the remaining ones have been issued registration appointments, as of 30 October.
- Some 52,000 new arrivals received appointments via UNHCR's Infoline. This is a direct result of the revamped Infoline infrastructure, including the increased number of operators from 12 to 32 and the expansion of the channels from 30 to 120.
- UNHCR and partners provide targeted support to persons with specific needs through individual case management, community-based psychosocial support, and emergency response. In addition, outreach meetings, community dialogue, focus group discussions, and awareness-raising on the services are also provided by UNHCR and our partners. Only in September, more than 13,000 newly arrived people from Sudan participated in information sessions, while more than 6,500 received psycho-social support.
- UNHCR provides safety and recovery support to survivors of gender-based violence and provides direct child protection services, including best-interest assessments, cash assistance for protection, and advocacy for inclusion of refugee children into national child protection systems.

Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- UNHCR has delivered 784,600 bottles of water, 150,000 hygiene kits and 80,000 sanitary items to its partner, the Egyptian Red Crescent, to be distributed at the border crossings with Sudan.
- UNHCR has also delivered 2,515 relief items and non-food items to its partner, including blankets, mattresses, floor mats, tents, fridges freezers, fire extinguishers, etc.

Cash Assistance and Livelihoods

- UNHCR provides emergency cash assistance to newly arrived Sudanese who fled the conflict in Sudan and who have specific needs. The total number of assisted individuals in Egypt is 41,759 (14,657 households).
- UNHCR offers refugees and asylum-seekers training and assists them in finding a market for their skills and goods. Moreover, UNHCR in Egypt disbursed livelihood grants to 327 refugees and asylum-seekers in September and October 2023, including 48 new arrivals from Sudan. These grants enable forcibly displaced people to establish or support income-generating activities aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in Egypt.

Education

- UNHCR provides teacher training, supports the refurbishment of schools and supplies equipment, furniture, and other necessities to assist the Egyptian facilities in absorbing the refugee population. In September, UNHCR delivered 150 computers and other IT equipment to the Ministry of Education to establish computer laboratories in 15 public schools in Aswan governorate.
- UNHCR has provided education grants to some 50,000 refugees and asylum-seeker students in public, community and private schools so far in 2023.

Health

- UNHCR supports national efforts to improve the quality of health services to refugees and asylum-seekers and the host population in areas with high concentration of refugees.
- Through its partner, UNHCR has provided more than 27,000 newly arrived people from Sudan with medical services at border crossings, including treatment for ailments related to the journey to Egypt (dehydration, heat stroke, insect bites, infection) and unattended chronic diseases (diabetes, heart failure). In severe cases, UNHCR's partner stabilized patients and referred them for care in hospitals in Abu Simbel or Aswan.

IT/ Telecommunications

- 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.
- To support registration activities in Cairo and Alexandria, network coverage was expanded, ensuring stable connectivity for uninterrupted protection services.
- UNHCR revamped its Infoline infrastructure with a significant increase in the connection channel capacity, leading to optimized accessibility.



At the Ambelia transit centre in Adré, UNHCR, WFP and HIAS are jointly organizing the general distribution of food to more than 3,000 Sudanese refugees. © UNHCR/Bienvenu Daldigué

ETHIOPIA

An estimated 38,000 refugees, asylum seekers and returnees have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia, most of them Sudanese, Eritreans and South Sudanese. In the Amhara and Kurmuk region where the majority of new arrivals are taking place, displaced people face various disease outbreaks including cholera, malaria, as well as a challenging security situation.

Protection

- Level 3 (L3) biometric registration of refugees is ongoing at the Metema transit center, documenting 848 individuals (464 families) as of 21 October. The registration will help refugees access assistance and services including food.
- 542 unaccompanied and separated children and other vulnerable children have been registered since last April. They are receiving comprehensive child protection support including foster family arrangements where possible. UNHCR conducts home visits to monitor the protection and wellbeing of the children.
- UNHCR and partners continue to closely monitor the protection and wellbeing of 674 persons with specific needs at Kumer settlement and the transit site in Metema. This is done through home visits to monitor their living condition.

Health

- UNHCR and partners are actively engaging refugees and host communities in orientation and awareness-raising sessions on cholera prevention.
- UNHCR is doing active surveillance through home-to-home visits, case findings and linkages/referrals to the Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC). Out of the 447 patients that were admitted in CTC since the start of the outbreak, 433 have recovered.
- In the Kumer settlement, UNHCR is 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.

Shelter

- 1,630 emergency shelters have been pitched at Kumer, currently sheltering over 9,700 refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Floor improvement and compaction of 25 transitional shelters in flood-prone areas in Kumer settlement are completed, enabling 20 families to move in.
- UNHCR and partners are currently planning the establishment of a new 24-hectare settlement site, which has the capacity to accommodate 3,715 refugees.

Education and Cash-based Interventions (CBI)

- A total of 1,255 refugees, including 439 girls have been identified and profiled to resume their primary and secondary education.
- Discussions were held with the relevant local authorities in Amhara region on the for inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in the local schools.
- 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.



Sudanese refugee Fatime, 38, and her baby are being relocated from the border site at Goungour, south-eastern Chad, to the Gaga refugee camp some 130km away, ahead of the rainy season. © UNHCR/Aristophane Ngargoune

SOUTH SUDAN

The total number of arrivals to South Sudan reached over 330,000, including over 290,000 refugee returnees. This amidst a sustained increase in the number of Sudanese refugees entering South Sudan. Approximately 98 per cent of them entered via the Joda/Renk border point. With the rainy season making it challenging for transportation and logistics, overcrowding remains a concern at the Renk transit centre where more new arrivals are being received and no relocations are taking place.

Protection

- 23,474 refugees and asylum seekers have been biometrically registered.
- Over 144,878 people have been supported with onward transportation from the border entry area in Renk to camps, their areas of origin, or destinations of choice since the start of the emergency, including 27,990 refugees and asylum seekers supported by UNHCR.
- Since the start of the emergency, 28,927 individuals with at least one vulnerability have been identified at the border with Sudan. The top three vulnerabilities include women at risk (41 per cent), persons with disabilities or serious medical condition (27 per cent) and female headed household (21 per cent)

Health and Nutrition

- In August, a total of 21,499 children under 5 and 3,946 pregnant and lactating women among new arrivals have been screened for acute malnutrition at both border points and in transit sites in three states.
- As a result of better conditions in which children arrive at the transit and reception centres, and early detection and treatment upon arrival, malnutrition rates have remained below 10 per cent since the beginning of October.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with partners, has started a week-long COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Renk targeting all adults.
- Vitamin A supplements and deworming tablets will be provided to children under 5 who are entering through the Joda border.
- A Nutrition Stabilization Centre with a capacity of eight beds has been opened in Melut Hospital in Upper Nile.

IT/Telecommunication

- In Renk, UNHCR provides around 50 humanitarian agencies with critical internet access.
- UNHCR also extends internet services to incoming young refugees, ensuring they remain connected for university exams and other educational purposes.
- In Wedwil, UNHCR has established internet and network connectivity at the registration centre. This enhanced connectivity directly supports UNHCR and partners on the ground to do registration activities effectively.

Ongoing priority needs

Six months on, the conflict shows no sign of slowing down. Millions of people remain displaced - and new displacement continues to rise. The magnitude of the crisis has generated immense needs, including but not limited to shelter, core relief items, healthcare, livelihoods and psychosocial support. The regional impact of the crisis, especially on Chad, Egypt and South Sudan, has been significant. Despite the magnitude of the humanitarian needs, the level of funding available to humanitarian organizations on the ground has been dramatically low.

Inside Sudan, the health system and basic social infrastructure have been negatively impacted, leading to the closure of schools and outbreaks of health emergencies such as cholera in several states.

Identity documentation and government registration continue to be paramount to establishing a personal identity and accessing basic needs. As such, UNHCR continues advocating the government to resume the issuance of identity documentation wherever possible, including the issuance of national numbers and recording life events, and to (re)resume the registration of refugees in all safe areas of Sudan.

For those fleeing Sudan, refugees and asylum seekers often arrive to border areas where the security situation is tense, thus one of the priorities is to relocate them to safer areas and address immediate shelter needs to avoid overcrowding.

UNHCR continues to provide protection measures against gender-based violence. Together with partners, UNHCR is committed to strengthening assistance to survivors of gender-based violence and victims of abuse, including through the provision of psychosocial support and case management, as well as preventive measures such as awareness-raising training and focus group discussions.

UNHCR prioritizes addressing the needs of children at risk which include family tracing and reunification, provision of alternative care to unaccompanied and separated children, increasing frontline staff and enhancing the capacity of partners and local/national child protection systems.

UNHCR advocates for long-term livelihoods measures, including integration, resettlement, mental health support and access to education. Together with our partners, we are providing support for refugee children to ensure inclusion into the national system. Women and girls are benefiting from counselling sessions on hygiene and daily life skills activities, which has helped them get closer to each other and share the emotional burden they are carrying because of displacement.

The world's attention on the Sudan crisis is fading. We cannot let this become another forgotten emergency.