

SUDAN SITUATION

21-27 November 2023



*Renk transit centre in South Sudan is currently hosting refugees and returnees who have fled the ongoing conflict in the neighbouring 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 226 days as of 27 November.

On 26 November, Human Rights Watch released [a report](#) stating that the Rapid Support Forces and their allied militias killed hundreds of civilians in West Darfur in early November 2023. Reference was made to UNHCR's [press release](#) warning of increased violence and human rights violations against civilians in Darfur, with HRW noting that based on interviews with survivors arriving in Chad the death toll could be estimated between 1,300 and 2,000. HRW states that the United Nations Security Council should urgently consider ways to strengthen the UN's presence in Sudan that could deter further atrocities and better protect civilians in Darfur.

On 25 November, the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) reaffirmed [calls](#) for the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) to immediately and unconditionally reach a ceasefire to end the conflict in Sudan. The PSC expressed particular concern at the humanitarian situation in Darfur, Kordofan and Khartoum, as well as in Abyei Administrative Area, and spread of the conflict to parts of the country hitherto spared from the worst of the conflict.

On 21 November, WFP [announced](#) that funding constraints and rising humanitarian needs could force a halt in assistance by January 2024 to more than a million people in Chad, including newly arrived refugees from Sudan. In just the last six months of conflict in Sudan, as many refugees have fled into Chad as had crossed the border in the preceding 20 years starting from the outbreak of the Darfur crisis in 2003.

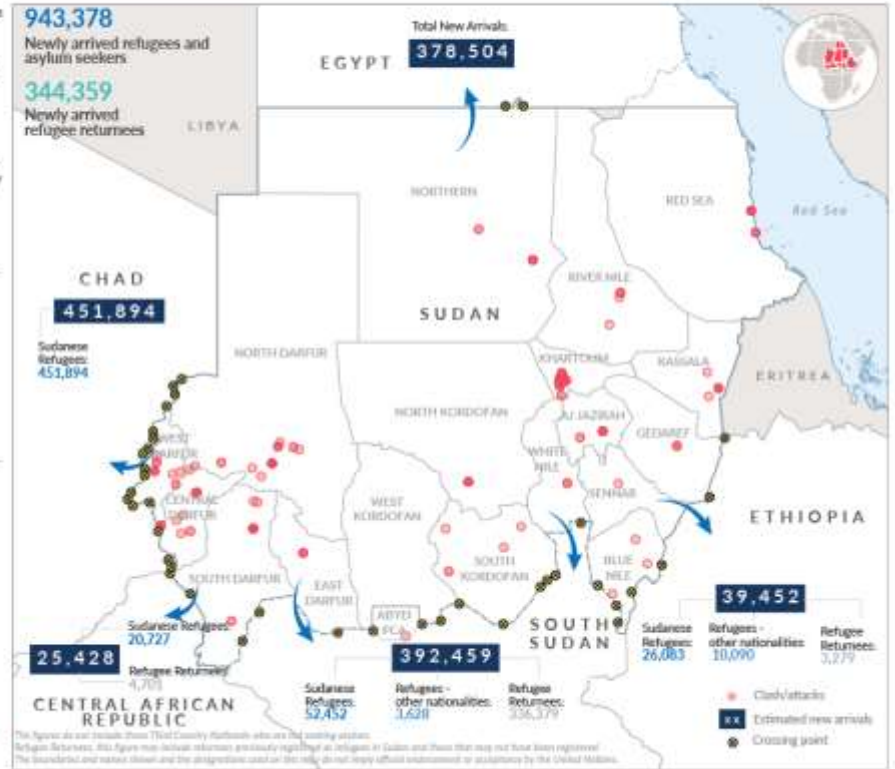
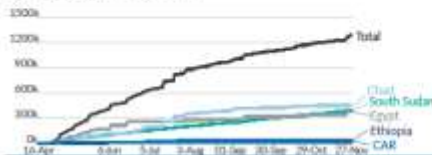
OVERVIEW: There are now nearly 6.6 million forcibly displaced due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan since April 2023, including 5.1 million internally and nearly 1.3 million in neighbouring countries. Sudan and neighbouring countries were already hosting large refugee populations before this new emergency and require additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance, including for those who have been secondarily displaced within Sudan. 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.

6,573,665 Forcibly Displaced
5,090,869 New IDPs in Sudan
1,287,737 Newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers and returnees
195,059 Self-relocated Refugees in Sudan

Arrivals by population and estimated gender type



New arrivals from Sudan



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- The Sudan Forces of Freedom and Change met with South Sudan President Salva Kiir and [agreed](#) to establish a joint committee to coordinate efforts and unify multiple platforms to end the conflict in Sudan.
- In Darfur, large numbers of armed groups are arriving in El Fasher, North Darfur, heightening the tense situation there. Additionally, in South Darfur, there are reports of inter-communal clashes and destruction of crops.
- A common position paper on relocation and alternative solutions to IDP gathering sites was endorsed by the national Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) on 20 November 2023. The paper highlights that alternative solutions, which may include establishment of temporary learning spaces, should be explored before relocation is considered; the ICCG opposes establishment of camps and camp-like sites, unless as a measure of last resort; and any relocation or alternative solution to gathering sites be planned in full consultation with IDPs and relevant stakeholders, and be within the existing capacities and resources of relevant line ministries and humanitarian partners.
- During a cross-border mission from Chad to Um Shalaya camp, Central Darfur, refugees reported protection concerns such as fear of gender-based violence and abduction and requested assistance to repatriate to Chad or another third country for their safety. UNHCR will assess the feasibility of this request to manage expectations.

Population Movements

In Kassala, 113 asylum seekers entering through Gergef and Gulsa border points were reported in the previous week.

In the last week, the return of Sudanese individuals from Chad to West Darfur has slowed down in comparison with the previous week. This is reportedly a reaction to the recent announcements by armed groups to support RSF in the area.

Protection & Registration

In Blue Nile State, 768 new arrivals have been registered in the last week. UNHCR is providing NFI kits and shelter assistance and coordinating with WFP for food assistance. The new arrivals include those who were supported with relocation from border areas and those who spontaneously arrived in Camp 6.

In Gedaref, eight Eritrean refugees were received after self-relocating from Al-Jazirah State. UNHCR-supported relocation exercises are postponed due to funding shortfalls.

Health & Nutrition

The cholera outbreak in Um Gargour (Gedaref) has reportedly stabilized owing to the ongoing vaccination campaign rolled out by the State Ministry of Health and UNICEF.

In Darfur, UNHCR together with the State Ministry of Health and local authorities successfully delivered medical supplies and essential medicines to five hospitals in Al Lait, North Darfur. Despite challenges and insecurity in East Darfur, the primary health centres for refugees in Kario camp and Abu Jabra settlement is functional, supporting 1,101 patients with medical consultations.

In White Nile State, Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food was distributed to ten health facilities to manage severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Additionally, WHO provided SAM kits for the treatment of malnourished children and lactating women with medical complications.

Core Relief Items (CRIs)/Shelter

In Tawilla and Al Lait, North Darfur, UNHCR and its partners distributed NFI to over 4,500 IDP returnee and host community households. In Port Sudan, Red Sea State, close to 450 households received NFI kits and soap while about 400 refugee households hosted in Wad Madani Al-Jazirah State also received NFI in the last week.

CHAD

Highlights

- Since the beginning of the emergency, a total of 187,710 individuals have been relocated from the border to safer areas where assistance is provided.
- Between 25 and 26 November, a total of 1,343 individuals (437 households) were relocated from Tine, at the border with Sudan, to Touloum camp. Additionally, 152 individuals (45 households) were relocated from the border arrival site of Birak, to the Milé Refugee Camp in the Wadi-Fira Province.
- The needs of arriving refugees remain vast, and include access to shelter, water, health, and CRIs. Increased support is crucial to ensure that steadily increasing needs of new arrivals are adequately met.

Protection

During the week under review, Chad's Immigration Police recorded the arrival of 3,050 individuals (637 households) in Adré. Approximately 160 individuals (35 households) also crossed the border through the Tiné border entry point from Nyala, El Fasher and Elgeneina. At Tine transit site, 5,747 people were counted.

A total of 8,441 individuals (2,287 households) were registered biometrically during the week in Arkoum, and Mile. A total of 117,786 individuals have been biometrically registered since the start of the emergency.

The existence of 32 border entry points and numerous other unofficial border crossing points along the 1,750 kilometres border between Chad and Sudan make border and protection monitoring very challenging for UNHCR, partners and authorities.

Awareness sessions on child protection topics, such as child abuse and neglect and supporting and preserving family unity, reached a total of 65,894 individuals in the regions of Ouaddai, Wadi Fira, and Sila, since the start of the emergency.

A total of 109 children-at-risk have been identified over the last two weeks mainly in the Ouaddai Province, reaching a total of 2,390 children-at-risk recorded since the start of the emergency across the three provinces of Ouaddai, Sila and Wadi Fira, including unaccompanied and separated ones. On a case-by-case basis, identified children are regularly referred for medical assistance, psychosocial support, and receive material assistance. Additionally, assessments are regularly conducted by qualified staff to ensure that decision and actions aimed at addressing children's protection risk and needs are in their best interest.

As part of the psychosocial support for children, with the support of UNHCR's and UNICEF's partners, a total of 69,649 children have been reached across the three provinces of Sila, Wadi Fira and Ouaddai.

Health and Nutrition

Since the beginning of the emergency, a total of 181,271 medical consultations have been conducted, including 14,529 consultations in the past week. The most common health issues remain malaria, acute respiratory infections, watery diarrhoea, and malnutrition.

During the reporting period, 100,248 children were screened for malnutrition. A total of 18,215 cases of children aged 6 to 59 months were treated for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), and 10,529 for severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Out of 14,624 children screened last week, 1,028 were identified and treated for MAM and 537 for SAM.

13,280 pregnant and lactating women were screened, and 1,467 out of them were treated for MAM. Last week, 1,087 pregnant women were screened including 88 MAM.

A total of 2,392 deliveries were attended to by qualified personnel since the start of the emergency, including 188 deliveries last week.

7,222 mental health cases have been received for consultation and treated, including 146 new cases last week.

Shelter Infrastructure and WASH

Preparations are underway for relocation of refugees from the border areas to the newly established Alacha camp; 314 refugee housing units have already been installed by African Initiative for Relief and Development (AIRD) and 91 emergency shelters were built by the Red Cross Chad. Five boreholes are functional, and a sixth one is under construction. The first relocation convoy is scheduled for 30 November, and it will be transporting about 300 people.

There is a need to enhance UNHCR's truck fleet to reduce dependency on commercial transporters who make operations very expensive and whose vehicles often lack proper maintenance. Long distances and poor road conditions also hampers movement of staff and of materials, particularly during the rainy season.

IT & TELECOMS

UNHCR continues to improve connectivity in operational areas. A second satellite-based internet service was installed to boost connectivity in the Adré and Hadjer-Hadid offices in addition to the existing KU-Band connection - a radio frequency band used for satellite communications.

In Sila Province, a new satellite-based internet connectivity has been established to replace the one previously owned by WFP. This upgraded connectivity will significantly assist in the upcoming registration exercise at the Zabout camp.

UNHCR made significant progress in enhancing the security of communication coverage in Hadjer-Hadid by using VHF. The objective was to extend the mobile radio's coverage to 40 kilometers which has improved communication between the Hadjer Hadid office and the Alacha new camp.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Highlights

- As of 27 November, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) have biometrically registered a total of 10,381 Sudanese individuals (3,545 households). Since the beginning of the crisis, approximately 25,435 people have arrived in the Central African Republic (CAR) from Sudan. This includes 20,734 Sudanese refugees and 4,701 Central African returnees, with 89% comprising women and children.
- Since the beginning of the emergency, 2,425 people (1,235 households) have relocated to Korsi in Birao, where biometric registration is ongoing, and assistance is being delivered. UNHCR and CNR are strengthening monitoring and registration mechanisms for new arrivals at the site. Despite the temporary suspension of the assisted relocation to Korsi in July, due to the rainy season rendering roads impassable, refugees continued to arrive at the site on their own to seek assistance.

Protection

During the reporting period, 44 assistance cards were distributed to heads of families, bringing the total number of cards distributed to Korsi since the start of the response to 1,070.

UNHCR's partner INTERSOS recorded 85 protection cases during the week. Persons with special needs, including persons with disabilities and unaccompanied and separated children, are being identified and referred to service providers for assistance. Since the beginning of the response to the crisis, 495 persons with special needs have been identified, including unaccompanied and separated children and women and men in need of protection. They have been referred to relevant services and are being followed up.

During the reporting period, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS conducted 95 monitoring visits with refugees and host communities in 9 locations in Tambaye District and Birao Health District. The monitoring allows for the identification of protection cases for assistance and referral to other relevant services. In addition, 13 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) were identified, including cases of physical assault, sexual assault, forced marriage, rape, and psychological and emotional violence. Survivors were referred to relevant medical and legal services, and some received dignity kits. Additionally, UNFPA provided 15 dignity kits and psychosocial support through its partner, Homme de Galillé (OHG-DS).

At the "Ma Mbi Si" listening center, 10 individual counseling sessions were conducted with people with special needs. This included breastfeeding mothers in difficult living conditions and GBV survivors.

A group discussion was held in the agricultural area to provide guidance to the women on how to effectively manage the food they received from UNHCR's partner NOURRIR and thus optimize the resources.

To prevent human rights violations and maintain a protective environment for the population in Vakaga Prefecture, two awareness-raising sessions on social cohesion and the right to education were held with refugees and members of the host community in Korsi and Yata. The sessions reached 279 people.

In Korsi, the complaint management and feedback mechanism, established to strengthen communication between refugees and humanitarian partners, allowed the collection of 23 complaints during the reporting period, including reports on protection incidents, as well as feedback and requests for information on shelter, basic assistance, food security and durable solutions. Complaints are regularly followed up.

Education

UNHCR's partner INTERSOS identified 27 protection cases in schools, including forced marriage, rape, and physical assault cases. All cases received psychosocial support.

During the reporting period, children benefited from psychosocial support at the Child Friendly Space (CFS) in Korsi. The CFS currently also serves as a temporary nursery pending the establishment of the three planned nurseries. Approximately 265 children attended the CFS. UNHCR, partners and education authorities are identifying focal points to be trained on mental health, GBV, child protection and the referral pathway. For school nurseries, strategic documents are being validated for implementation.

Health

NOURRIR, WHO, OHG-DS, IMC and the Biaro Health District jointly carried out 399 medical consultations during the week, including with 152 children under five years. Malaria, digestive bacterial infections, and acute respiratory infections remained the main pathologies recorded. A total of 25 deliveries were assisted at the health centre in Korsi.

OHG-DS conducted sexual and reproductive health awareness sessions for 60 women and facilitated family planning sessions attended by 120 people.

Shelter, CRIs and Food Distribution

A total of 663 shelters have been built at Korsi site since the start of the response, with the doors for 383 of them fixed as of last week.

A total of 46 households (of 69 people) in Korsi received core relief items from NOURRIR. The items included mats, blankets, mosquito nets, buckets, kitchen sets, jerrycans, and solar lamps. In total, 4,164 pieces of soap were distributed to 783 households. From 30 September to 24 November, NOURRIR distributed a total of 10,108 pieces of soap to 1,632 households.

From 16 September to 24 November, NOURRIR served a total of 8,306 hot meals in Korsi.

WASH

A total of 105 latrines and 104 emergency showers are now operational in Am-Dafock and Korsi. Community groups have been established in various blocks of Korsi to ensure the hygiene of the site and of the sanitation infrastructure, including water points. A total of 307 individuals were targeted through several hygiene promotion sessions held in Korsi. Topics tackled were household waste management, fire prevention, good practices for drinking water. have participated in this activity to date.

UNHCR and its partner NOURRIR distributed 40,000 litres of water per day in Korsi to 1,235 Sudanese refugee households. However, the country's fuel shortage severely disrupts the water-pumping generator's regular operation, resulting in inadequate and erratic water supply. Long queues and potential tensions have emerged at water collection points due to this inconsistency. Adequate resources are necessary to meet these needs and effectively tackle the associated challenges.

Last week, UNHCR received 1,250 litres of fuel in Birao, which will allow the running of the water point in Korsi for some time.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- As of 26 November, a total of 39,452 refugees and asylum-seekers along with 3,279 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have fled violence in Sudan and arrived in Ethiopia.
- The security situation at Kumer settlement and its surroundings has improved as the government has started taking measures to combat criminal activities in the area. No security incidents were reported in the last seven days.

- A total of 715 children have enrolled in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and primary education at Kumer Host Community School and at Kumer Primary School.

Population Movements

As of 26 November, 39,452 refugees and asylum-seekers (18,464 families), as well as 3,279 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia. Of these, 19,394 crossed through the Metema entry point in Amhara, 17,118 through the Kurmuk entry point in Benishangul-Gumuz Region (BGR) and 700 individuals through different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey). Most of the new arrivals are Sudanese (66.1 per cent), followed by Eritreans (21.2 per cent), Ethiopian returnees (8.3 per cent) and South Sudanese (4.2 per cent).

Following a peak in July when 13,788 new arrivals were registered, the trend in arrivals has gradually slowed down, with only 1,189 recorded in October. However, there appears to be a slight resurgence in November with 1,443 new arrivals registered so far this month.

Protection

UNHCR and partners are working to decongest the entry points at Metema where hundreds of asylum seekers are staying in makeshift shelters. In the past week, UNHCR and partners successfully relocated 203 individuals to the transit centre. The relocated individuals were selected based on their vulnerability.

UNHCR, together with RRS and Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE), is currently identifying vacant or semi-vacant shelters at Kumer to try to relocate more people from the border.

At the Kurmuk transit centre, awareness sessions were conducted on forced marriage and sexual exploitation and abuse at the distribution area, for a total of 196 individuals (106 females, 90 males). Additionally, Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) activities engaged a total of 49 individuals (33 women, 16 girls). Dignity kits consisting of body soap (50), laundry soap (150), sanitary pads (100), hair oil (50), pyjamas (50), slippers (50), body lotion (50), and underwear (100) were distributed to 50 women and girls. One case of Gender-Based Violence was reported and Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) were provided.

Activities at the Child-Friendly Space (CFS) at the Kurmuk transit center are ongoing, catering to the needs of refugee and asylum-seeker children. During the reporting period, an average of 450 children (including 273 girls) accessed and were actively engaged in both indoor and outdoor recreational activities. This space serves as a secure and nurturing environment for children by facilitating recreational play activities, providing direct and referral-based psychosocial support, and offering non-formal educational opportunities. These activities aim to foster the children's physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being. High Energy Biscuits (HEB) were distributed to children in attendance to supplement their nutrition.

A total of 14 separated children, including six girls, were identified and registered by community social workers and local structures at Kurmuk during the week, bringing the total number of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC) to 604. Home visits were conducted to UASC and OVC children to assess the current situation of the children and their families.

Registration

Last week, 129 individuals were biometrically registered at the Metema transit center bringing the cumulative total registered so far to 1,222 individuals. Lack of adequate registration staff and other challenges have slowed the pace of the registration, calling for an urgent resolution.

Education

A total of 715 children have enrolled in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and primary education at Kumer Host Community School and at Kumer Primary School, including 135 kids attending ECCE classes at the host community school. UNICEF and Save the Children Ethiopia (SCE) have provided school supplies and a water tank, respectively, to support the teaching-learning process at Kumer and Awlala sites and the surrounding areas.

At the Kurmuk transit centre, classes for grades one and two are progressing well with an average of 190 children attending sessions every weekday.

Health and nutrition

In Kurmuk, the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) offered medical consultation to 515 patients last week, 73 of them being children under five years. Consultation sessions were also held with 11 mental health cases. The absence of ambulance services presents a significant risk to the community as the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERS) could not sustain the service due to lack of budget for fuel. Additionally, there is a severe shortage of medication, further compromising the healthcare support available in the area.

Out of 48 children that were screened for malnutrition at Kurmuk, 14 were identified as malnourished and referred to outpatient therapeutic and targeted supplementary feeding programmes.

At Kumer settlement and the transit center at Metema, a total of 970 patients, including 93 individuals from the surrounding host communities received medical consultations during the past week. Furthermore, 17 people were screened for mental health issues and those that were identified as having some problems were referred for appropriate services.

Out of 128 children under five who were screened for malnutrition at Kumer, eight were identified as moderately malnourished and subsequently referred for treatment.

WASH

Refugees and asylum-seekers at the Metema transit center had access to a daily water allowance of 13.6 liters per person (l/p/d) while those at the Kumer site received 12.5 l/p/d against an emergency standard of 15 l/p/d. The rapid filling of latrines and the slow pace of replacements remain a significant challenge, potentially posing health risks. The current latrine to beneficiary ratio at Kumer stands at 1:102, worryingly below the emergency standard of 1:50.

Site development, Shelter, CRIs

Limited resources have prevented the installation of partitions in the communal shelters at Kurmuk, leading multiple families to share a single large space. Additionally, the scarcity of resources has limited the construction of hangars, forcing most of the population to seek their own shelter solutions. The absence of communal kitchens has also forced hangar occupants to cook inside the hangars, posing a fire hazard, health risks and contributing significantly to roof leaks. These challenges highlight the urgent need for increased resources and support to improve living conditions.

EGYPT

Highlights

- A total of 370,000 Sudanese and 8,504 individuals of other nationalities, totaling some 378,504 people, have crossed into Egypt since the start of the Sudan crisis, according to latest figures shared by the Government of Egypt on 21 November.
- UNHCR has so far registered some 108,000 new arrivals from Sudan - 90 per cent Sudanese.
- UNHCR has provided emergency cash assistance to 44,325 newly arrived forcibly displaced people from Sudan.

Registration and Protection

Registration: As of 24 November, 156,661 new arrivals from Sudan had been given appointments for pre-registration, of which 107,637 (69 per cent) have already been registered. Most of the registered population are Sudanese nationals (90%), while the other main nationalities registered are South Sudanese (4%), and Eritrean (4%). The vast majority (89 per cent) of those registered originate from Khartoum, and 22% of those registered have one or more specific needs, among which 73% is on grounds of lacking legal documentation and 8% are children at risk of not attending school.

Infoline: 14,670 inquiries were handled by UNHCR’s Infoline last week and registration appointments given to 8,425 individuals. This brings the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the system to 78,606. Following the merging of the Cairo and Alexandria lines and the hiring of additional agents, the average number of calls per day has tripled compared to pre-crisis levels.

Legal protection: UNHCR concluded a three-day training on International Refugee Law, child protection and mixed movements for 23 officers at the Egyptian Ministry of Defense in Alexandria. The training was the seventh activity provided in 2023 for military officers from the border guards, naval forces, military judiciary, and military intelligence. The audience was interactive and welcomed the UNHCR experience being shared with them, given the relevance to their field, and shared the need for more capacity-building activities. UNHCR plans to step up its capacity-building plan of activities in 2024 in response to the interest of the GoE. The training took place in a context in which the number of onward movements of Sudanese refugees has greatly increased compared to previous years, with at least twice the number of arrests for “illegal exits” along the Libya border, when compared to the same period in 2022.

Community-based protection: During the last week, refugee outreach workers provided support to some 4,600 new arrivals from Sudan at UNHCR’s 6 October Reception Centre in Cairo on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. Furthermore, UNHCR partner PSTIC (Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo) provided basic counselling to 2,400 refugees and asylum-seekers and referred 23 cases to in-depth assessment.

Child protection: In commemoration of World Children’s Day on 20 November, UNHCR organized drawing activities in its child-friendly spaces in two registration centres in Cairo. Small items such as colouring books and pencils were distributed to the children.

Gender-based violence: Last week, UNHCR supported 38 gender-based violence survivors arriving at the 6 October Reception Centre in Cairo. All cases were addressed with counseling and referred to technical units for specific follow-up.

Livelihoods

UNHCR, through its implementing partners, has provided livelihood support to 4,973 forcibly displaced people in 2023 (58% women), including 300 refugees and asylum-seekers newly arrived from Sudan. This support includes guidance on the Egyptian labour market and matching employers with potential employees ensuring minimum standards are met. Moreover, UNHCR supports potential entrepreneurs with cash grants and mentoring to establish businesses. All these efforts help refugees in navigating the challenging labour market in Egypt, characterized by a significant informal sector and chronic unemployment.

For most refugees, self and wage employment in the informal market is the only way to earn an income and provide for their family’s needs. It is difficult to find decent opportunities without social ties and connections, without knowing the labour market dynamics, and sometimes, without having previous work experience, which is often the case for women and youth. Exploitative practices include refugees being contacted by brokers who support in the job search for up to 50% of the salary as long as the person maintains the job.

Cash Assistance

UNHCR is accelerating the cash assistance delivery to new arrivals from Sudan. Last week, UNHCR provided emergency cash assistance to 1,846 people. Since the onset of the Sudan conflict, UNHCR has identified 45,984 people as eligible for one-off emergency cash assistance. 97% of them have already been assisted (44,325 individuals). UNHCR provides emergency cash assistance to newly arrived Sudanese who fled to Egypt after the conflict in Sudan. This cash assistance is provided once to families who have registered with UNHCR, and to those who are in Aswan and have not yet registered to support them with their most pressing needs. UNHCR conducts rapid needs assessments to inform the eligibility for emergency assistance for unregistered Sudanese individuals.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- As of 26 November, a cumulative number of 404,439 individuals (92,300 households) had arrived in South Sudan, with 16,363 individuals (3,426 households) arriving between 20-24 November, marking a 27 per cent increase on last week's 12,912 new arrivals. Of recent new arrivals, 90 per cent are South Sudanese and 65 per cent intend to go to Renk, 7 per cent to Malakal, 7 per cent to Juba and 4 per cent to Fashouda.
- Since April, 84 per cent of the new arrivals have entered via the Joda/Renk border point. While Sudanese refugees account for 16 per cent, South Sudanese returnees continue to comprise the vast majority (83 per cent) of all new arrivals. Over the past week, 94 per cent of arrivals entered via the Joda/Renk border point, 3 per cent through Panakuach and 1 per cent via Abyei.
- New arrivals from Blue Nile State continue to be observed. In Maban, 572 people arrived at Doro Refugee camp through the Shatta/Yabous corridor. A total of 75 per cent are Sudanese women and children from Blue Nile State and 546 are refugees.
- In Renk, South Sudanese new arrivals from Madani, Al Jazirah State cited a deteriorating political situation with directives by authorities to return to South Sudan with reports of extortion and abuse. New arrivals report lack of essential services in Sudan and harassment and detention during their flight to safety.
- The pause in onward transportation of refugees to Maban refugee camp due to poor road conditions continues. In Abyei, UNSMS personnel has been advised that no movement is permitted to the south due to a deterioration in security conditions and ongoing conflict, this includes the road from Abyei to Warrap State and prevents the relocation of refugees from Abyei to Wedwil Settlement in Aweil.

Registration

A total of 54,393 refugees and asylum-seekers have arrived in South Sudan since the onset of the crisis with 50,199 individuals (89 per cent) biometrically registered so far. According to those registered and profiled for registration, the majority of refugees are located in Maban and Renk (almost 30,800), Juba (over 11,100), Aweil (over 10,600), and almost 500 in Malakal.

As of 26 November, the cumulative number of individuals biometrically registered stood at 15,979 in Maban, 14,615 in Renk, 11,090 in Juba, 4,896 in Wedwil, 3,528 in Jamjang and 91 in Abyei.

Protection

In Renk, South Sudanese new arrivals from Madani, Al Jazirah State cited a deteriorating political situation with directives by authorities to return to South Sudan with reports of extortion and abuse. New arrivals report lack of essential services in Sudan and harassment and detention during their flight to safety. Over 3,800 Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) were profiled and transported from the Joda border to Renk and support was provided in collaboration with WFP. Over 500 individuals were provided with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and over 1,800 individuals participated in joint awareness sessions on registration, transportation, peaceful coexistences, child protection, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and reporting of SEA and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

Delays in relocation of refugees and returnees causes overcrowding and places increasing pressure on limited resources and exacerbates protection risks. Protection monitoring indicated the need for increased latrines, security lighting, gender-disaggregated facilities, food assistance, and dignity kits; it also indicated incidences of harassment by local police.

In Malakal, information sessions on PSEA and safe reporting mechanisms were provided to 27 participants. A total of 657 PSNs were screened and provided with protection services and referrals. Two unaccompanied children (UASC) were successfully reunified with their families and an adult male via family tracing by IOM.

In Aweil, new arrivals entering through Majokyothou report extortion, abuse, intimidation and harassment by armed groups. Returnees requested land plots via registration with Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). Protection desks provided 105 individuals with protection support and five cases have requested for identity documentation support. A total of 11 GBV cases were reported and provided with counselling. Eight families reported cases of missing children and ICRC is providing family reunification services. Four UASC were referred to IRC for protection services. Almost 50 children were provided with MHPSS.

Health and Nutrition

In Renk, 5,098 consultations were conducted at the transit center marking an increase of 10 per cent from the previous week. 68 pregnant women received antenatal care during the reporting period bringing the total to 3,090, with 3 skilled deliveries were conducted, bringing the total to 170 since the onset of the emergency. There were 3 mortalities recorded in the last week, causes include severe malaria, severe pneumonia and a sudden illness - cause unknown. A total of 654 children were vaccinated within the week, this brings the total cumulative of children vaccinated to 16,779. Cholera outbreak preparedness meetings continued with Health and WASH sectors.

Food insecurity was the highest concern reported by new arrivals. In Renk, the highest priority need identified from the complaints and feedback mechanism was related to food assistance provision and purchasing power of financial assistance provided to refugee and returnee households. In Gorom and Aweil, newly arrived refugees expressed that food rations are insufficient, with requests for the assignment of land plots to cultivate their own food and build their resilience. For returnees in Unity, WFP commenced a general food distribution in Bentiu IDP camp while they continued to register recent returnees arriving in Rotriak. Different NGOs arrived to provide food or cash assistance to refugees, however better coordination among partners is required to ensure a strategic approach.

Sudanese refugees stated that sorghum is not a preferred food choice within their culture and dietary traditions. UNHCR continued to engage and advocate for an increased ratio and variety of food baskets with partners.

In Panakuach, Renk, Malakal, and Maban, 2,515 children under 5 years of age among new arrivals were screened for malnutrition and 189 were identified with acute malnutrition in this reporting week. The acute malnutrition level stands at 7.5 per cent, in comparison to 6.4 per cent last week, both of which are much lower than the week before (20.1 per cent).

Water and Sanitation

Latrine coverage remains well below the emergency standard of 1:15; with 1:236 in Renk, 1:113 in Malakal and 1:88 in Abyei, as more emergency latrines are being decommissioned than constructed. There are now 72 latrine stances in Renk, 62 in Malakal, 10 in Pankuach and 1 in Abyei.

At the Renk TC, 220,000 litres of water are provided daily by partners. Improvement in latrine ratio has been reported with the construction of 10 new latrines, and two latrine blocks slated for decommissioning. UNHCR continued to improve and manually drain the stagnant excess water to improve health and WASH conditions and the rerouting in the overflow of water. In Wedwil TC in Aweil, 14 pit latrines have been constructed and the rehabilitation of 6 boreholes has been completed. In Bulukat TC, Malakal, 140,000 litres clean drinking water is provided daily. In Abyei at the TC, UNISFA delivered 5,000 litres of water.

Shelter and CRIs

A total of 1,000 vulnerable households were targeted and received CRIs across Bentiu.

In Wedwil in Aweil, substantial progress has been made in the construction of family shelters across the settlement, 26 tents were constructed for new arrivals and 54 refugee households received CRIs.

In Renk TC, 100 children received clothing, shoes and jerry cans. Additional support of soap and juice was provided to 25 vulnerable children. 50 households received CRIs including blankets, sleeping mats, buckets, jerry cans, plastic sheets and mosquito nets. In the TC, 21 family shelters were built using plastic

sheets to provide safe shelter for PSNs which has improved the living conditions and reduced protection risks.

Construction work on the Renk TC extension site for the planned 59 communal shelters, 8 latrine blocks and two communal kitchens has made progress. Upon completion, the communal shelters will increase coverage from 9 per cent to an estimated 45 per cent. An additional budget is needed for 69 more shelters, increasing capacity from 1,892 to 3,550 individuals.

In Abyei, 88 refugees received NFIs, this did not include sleeping mats or jerry cans for those in transit in the UNHCR rubhall.

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 1,004,761,770** 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 27 November, total funding of USD 375 million has been recorded or **37%** of the funding requirements ([Refugee Funding Tracker](#)).
- RRP 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 2.57 billion** to help 18 million people. As of 27 November, the total funding for the HRP reached some USD 980.5 million or **38.2%** 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 27 November, the total available funding for the appeal was USD 166.3 million or **33%** of the funding requirements ([Sudan Situation Funding Update](#)).

Resources

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

Contacts: **Kabami Kalumiya** – Reporting Officer, RBEHAGL (kalumiya@unhcr.org); **Joyce Munyao-Mbithi** – Senior Donor Relations Officer, RBEHAGL (munyao@unhcr.org);