

## **SUDAN SITUATION**

**11 - 18 December 2023**



*South Sudan, Fairo Faiz at the transit center in Renk, wishes that the war ends sooner so that they can go back to their homes.*  
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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 247 days as of 18 December.

On 15 December 2023, intense fighting broke out between the SAF and RSF close to Wad Madani city in AL Jazirah state. After days of clashes, RSF entered Wad Madani on 18 December. The situation is tense and unpredictable, with clashes reportedly still ongoing. Curfews have been imposed in most eastern States of Sudan.

Wad Madani, which lies some 136km southeast of Khartoum, has been a place of refuge for many displaced individuals from Khartoum due to its proximity to the capital. Humanitarian agencies including UNHCR also established offices and warehouses in the city. Reportedly, looting has occurred in Wad Madani city, affecting civilian structures and humanitarian facilities. There are also reports of sexual and gender-based violence, looting of personal and commercial belongings during flight, difficulties faced in seeking safety due to lack of or high cost of transport, and check points requiring payments along the routes.

With the movement of the conflict towards Wad Madani, UNHCR international staff were initially repositioned to Kosti, White Nile State before evacuation of all UN international staff and self-relocation of national staff in Kosti was authorized on 18 December. Operations in Al Jazirah and White Nile will be managed remotely until it is possible to return. Read more on the [press briefing](#) held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 19 December 2023.

In response to RSF's invasion of Gezira State, political leaders in Kassala State and Red Sea State, which is home of SAF's de facto capital, Port Sudan, have called for mobilization of more troops, and greater readiness on the part of allied armed groups. In a related development, the Beja Congress Party in Kassala held a press conference [calling on its demobilized fighters](#) to prepare for war in eastern Sudan.

Renewed clashes have also been reported in El Fasher, North Darfur, including close to Abu Shouk and Al Salam IDP camps, with many people reportedly displaced as a result.

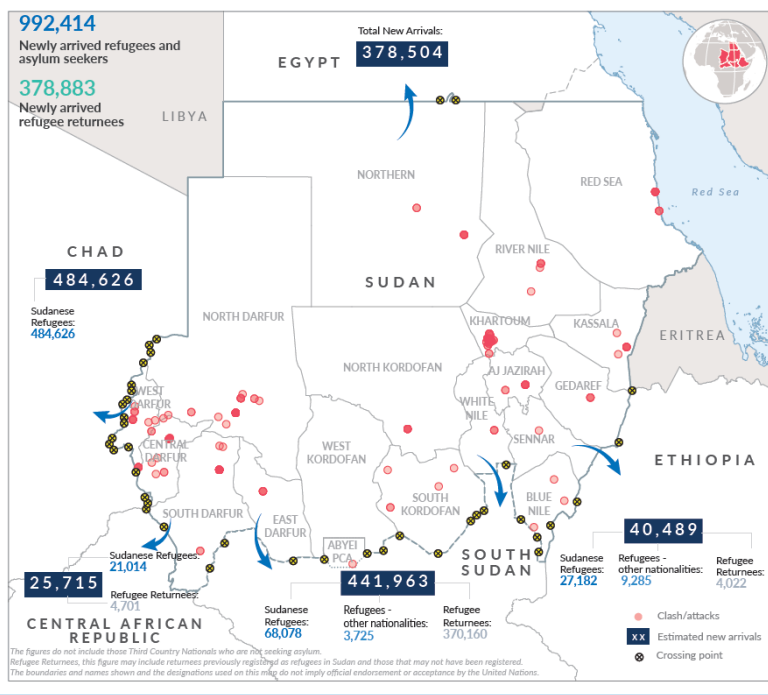
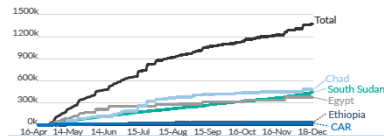
**OVERVIEW:** There are now nearly 7 million forcibly displaced due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan since April 2023, including 5.4 million internally and over 1.37 million in neighbouring countries. Sudan and neighbouring countries were already hosting large refugee populations before this new 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.

**6,991,326** Forcibly Displaced  
**5,424,772** New IDPs in Sudan  
**1,371,297** Newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers and returnees  
**195,257** Self-relocated Refugees in Sudan

Arrivals by population and estimated gender type



New arrivals from Sudan



## Situation and Operational Response

### SUDAN

#### Highlights

- Armed conflict, inter-communal conflict and crime are ongoing in most areas of Sudan. Clashes are ongoing in various areas in Al Jazirah and White Nile.
- Following the escalation of violence in Al Jazirah, many civilians including refugees and asylum seekers who previously sought safety in Wad Madani and nearby localities have moved towards other locations including Sennar, Gedaref, Kassala and White Nile States. According to [IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#), approximately 250,000 – 300,000 people have moved out of Gezira State to other areas in search of safety, many travelling on foot, due to lack of transport options.

- **IOM DTM** estimates that there were close to 500,000 internally displaced people in 1,391 locations across Al Jazirah as of 12 December 2023. Movements have predominantly been recorded to Sennar and Gedaref but there are indications that, for many, these are considered points of transit, and they intend to keep moving on to other States.
- UNHCR is responding to new displacement in Al Jazirah and preparing to activate an emergency response in Sennar.
- The first distribution of NFI in Central Darfur State through cross-border operations from Chad was successful.
- In Blue Nile, UNHCR received reports that some 400 persons, comprising Ethiopian and Sudanese individuals, have arrived at the border with Ethiopia from Benishangul Gumuz region.
- In West Kordofan, the Commission for Refugees (COR) reports a small influx into Sudan through El Meiram border point of an estimated 130 individuals due to intercommunal fighting in South Sudan.

### **Operational Update**

UNHCR is responding to new displacement from Al Jazirah to Gedaref as a result of the hostilities while also planning to activate an emergency response in Sennar, to where many people have fled. While UNHCR does not have an established presence in Sennar, the Damazine Field Office has previously carried out activities there. Partners and agencies are responding to the new needs within the limits of the available items and access restrictions.

On 15 December, the first distribution of non-food items (NFI) in Central Darfur through cross-border operations from Chad was successful. A total of 2,000 NFI kits were distributed to refugees in Um Shalaya camp and IDPs and vulnerable residents in Um Shalaya locality.

### **Protection**

In Gedaref, UNHCR and COR supported the relocation of displaced individuals from Um Gulja settlement to Um Gargour camp. A total of 1,194 refugees and asylum seekers were identified and relocated to the camp where they received NFI to support their immediate needs.

### **Health and Nutrition**

The Health Cluster highlights the risk of the spread of cholera in both Gedaref and Jazirah. WHO is in the process of expanding their cholera response plan.

### **Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)**

UNHCR is planning to send 1,000 non-food item kits to Sennar. NRC is planning 2,500 NFI kits to Gedaref and Sennar and 200 tents, the distribution has already started.

### **WASH**

The WASH cluster is presently mobilising hygiene kits and attempting to set up water trucking to serve the new influx.

## **CHAD**

### **Highlights**

- Border monitoring continued during the reporting week, with 1,889 individuals registered by the immigration officials to have crossed into Chad from Sudan. The figure excludes new arrivals who bypass the immigration and join relatives at spontaneous sites.

### **Relocation**

During the reporting week, 8,717 individuals were relocated from border areas to safer areas in refugee camps: 1,731 households (6,488 individuals) from the Adré refugee spontaneous site to the new Alacha Refugee Camp; 344 households (1,204 individuals) from Adré to Metché and 309 households of 1,025 individuals from Tine to Touloum.

## Protection

Biometric registration continued during the reporting week with a total of 17,682 registered: Oure-Cassoni Refugee camp in the Ennedi Est Province (2,481 individuals/825 households), Djabal (4,980 households/individuals 13,946) Arkoum: 1,255 households/4,376 individuals.

## Health and Nutrition

232,813 medical consultations have been carried out since the start of the emergency, including 11,903 during the reporting period. Malaria, acute respiratory infections (ARI), watery diarrhea and malnutrition remain the most common pathologies.

182,849 children aged 6 to 59 months were screened, including 21,858 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 11,955 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated. Over the past week, 21,215 children were screened, including 998 MAM and 413 SAM.

17,213 pregnant and breastfeeding women were screened since the start of the emergency, among whom 2,453 cases of MAM were treated. Last week, 978 pregnant women were screened, including 301 cases of MAM.

9,092 mental health cases have been received for consultation and treated, including 190 new cases last week.

3,272 deliveries have been attended to by qualified health personnel since the start of the emergency, including 194 deliveries last week.

National mass vaccination campaign against poliomyelitis coupled with vitamin A took place during the reporting period across the country, including refugee sites. The figures on those vaccinated will be communicated next week by the government after compilation and analysis of the data.

The launch of the mass distribution of mosquito nets campaign at the Zabout Refugee Camp started on 14 December 2023 with 1,711 households visited, and 2,080 mosquito nets distributed to refugees.

## Shelter Infrastructure and WASH

1,160 refugee housing units (RHUs) out of 2,808 planned were installed by AIRD, with 1,088 already allocated new arrivals in Alacha.

The water ratio per person per day in Djabal is 15.6 liters, Goz-Amir: 14.03 liters, Zabout, 10.6, Amnabat: 7.2, Touloum: 17 liters. In the camps under Guereda (Konougou: 13, Mile:14,47, liters per person per day) and Iridimi (5.5 liters per person per day) water-trucking continues at an expensive cost to the operation.

During the reporting period, 154 new latrines and showers were constructed with 142 latrines in Alacha and 12 at the Touloum Refugee Camp extension, bringing the total number of latrines and showers built to 6,360 since the start of the emergency.

## IT and Telcoms

UNHCR conducted a site survey to install two additional connectivity links in the new camp of Metché. These links are specifically intended to facilitate biometric registration activities.

Efforts are underway to establish a hybrid security communication system that includes VHF equipment for short-range communications within 15 kilometers and satellite equipment for long-range communications in UNHCR's operational areas in Eastern Chad.

**Urgent requirements:** There is an urgent need to increase the autonomy with solar power at various locations to ensure uninterrupted service delivery.

## Central African Republic (CAR)

### Highlights

- As of 18 December, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) have biometrically registered a total of **10,614 Sudanese individuals (3,632 households)**. The vast majority live in small villages in different prefectures while some 2,588 individuals (1,331 households), including 827 men, 513 women, 624 girls, and 624 boys, are present on the Korsi site.
- Since the beginning of the crisis, approximately 25,836 people have arrived in the Central African Republic (CAR) from Sudan. This includes 21,135 Sudanese refugees and 4,701 Central African returnees, with 88% comprising women and children.
- Refugees continue to arrive spontaneously at the Korsi site. With the recent deterioration of the security situation in Nyala, in Southern Darfur, the number of new arrivals is increasing daily. Out of the 2,588 registered refugees on the site, 1,739 people (982 households) have spontaneously arrived in Korsi since 22 June 2023. The journey from Nyala can take up to 4 days, refugees travel using local transports. Many are obliged to leave members of their family behind as they lack enough means for all of them to travel. Lack of food and livelihoods beside insecurity are among the reasons for fleeing.

### Protection

UNHCR's partner INTERSOS conducted 21 monitoring visits during the week, including 12 in the host community of Birao and 09 in the Korsi site. In addition, 34 protection incidents were recorded compared to 39 the previous week. Most of the incidents recorded are related to violations of the right to property, physical integrity and gender-based violence.

During the reporting week, UNFPA, through its partner OHG-DS, intensified community awareness-raising activities as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. At the safe space for women and girls run by the Homme De Galille team, 181 people (including 92 Sudanese refugees), mostly women and girls, were reached and received information on the typologies of GBV and the available services. In addition, survivors were referred for medical care and individual psychosocial support. Finally, GBV survivors received psychosocial support through group sessions.

During the reporting period, five focus group sessions were organized at the Ma Mbi Si safe space to benefit refugees to discuss various subjects such as the GBV prevention or women's responsibilities within the community, reaching 135 persons. In addition, agricultural activities, and life skills sessions, continue at the Korsi site.

INTEROS has established a complaint and feedback management mechanism in order to strengthen the communication with refugees and to improve the quality of the humanitarian assistance on the Korsi site. During the reporting period, three awareness-raising sessions were held on the existing mechanism, and 20 complaints were collected, mainly on shelter/NFI, food security, CCCM and WASH related-issues. All complaints were referred to sectoral actors, resulting in 38 feedbacks received in total since the establishment of the mechanism in the site.

### Shelter, Core Relief Items (CRIs) and Food Distribution

Additional land for the extension of the site was negotiated by the local authorities and CNR. This will allow to increase the number of shelters for new arrivals.

During the reporting week, UNHCR's partner NOURRIR was able to build 60 new shelter frames in the Korsi site and from 13 to 14 December they also built two new transit communal shelters to host new arrivals who wait until their familiar shelter is ready.

During the week, a total of 120 households of 212 people benefited from a UNHCR distribution of non-food items consisting of mats, blankets, mosquito nets, buckets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, soap, and solar lamps. The beneficiaries of these kits are those who arrived in Korsi between 1<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November.



UNHCR's partner NOURRIR served 1,794 hot meals in Korsi. Since the beginning of September, a total of 13,137 hot meals have been served, representing the equivalent of 11.051 tons of food, including rice, beans, oil and salt.

### **Education**

Focus group discussions have revealed lingering reticence of refugee parents to send their children to the local schools due lack of social cohesion. UNHCR's partner INTERSOS organized a door-to-door awareness-raising campaign in the Korsi refugee neighborhood and host-community neighborhoods on the theme, "The importance of education and social cohesion in school". This week's mobilization reached 733 people (63% women) including 380 parents and 353 children, which represents 130 more people reached than the previous week. Since the beginning of the response, education-related community mobilization campaigns have reached 6,323 refugees and host-community members in Birao. Peaceful coexistence activities involving both refugee and host-community children, parents, and community leaders are planned for the coming weeks.

The school-based Psychosocial Support Team trained by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS identified five cases of GBV this week through the school-based child protection referral mechanisms created in the host-community schools attended by Sudanese refugees. All cases benefitted from active listening and social support from the PSS Focal Points, and then were referred for further psychological or medical care and case management with the appropriate structures. Additionally, follow up visits were organized with previous GBV cases which included rape and FGM to support recovery and assess need for additional services.

This week a total of 219 children and adolescents (46% girls) participated in recreational and psychosocial support activities at the Child Friendly Space managed by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS at the Korsi site. This week's activities incorporated 7 more children including 2 more girls compared to last week.

All education activities are being made possible thanks to the generous support of Education Cannot Wait through its First Emergency Response grant for Sudanese refugees in Central African Republic.

### **Health and Nutrition**

NOURRIR, International Medical Corps, OHG-DS (Homme de Galille), WHO and the Birao Health District conducted 343 medical consultations during the reporting period, among which 323 refugees. Five refugee women benefitted from gynecological services and one delivery was assisted, totaling 30 deliveries assisted since July.

During the reporting period, three children were treated for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). From July to 15 December, a total of 273 children were treated for MAM, 48 children for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), and 232 children received nutritional support at the Korsi site as part of the nutritional rehabilitation program.

On 9 December, 60 young people from the host community and Sudanese refugees were sensitized on HIV/AIDS, GBV and reproductive health.

### **WASH**

UNHCR and its partner NOURRIR distributed 40,000 liters of water per day in Korsi to 2,467 Sudanese refugee households living on the site. The average water distribution during the reporting week was 16.21 liters per person. NOURRIR is building a second borehole to provide more water and it will be ready by the end of December 2023.

## ETHIOPIA

### Highlights

- As of 17 December, a total of **40,489** refugees and asylum-seekers including **2,918** Ethiopian refugee returnees, have fled violence in Sudan and arrived in Ethiopia.
- In Metema, Amhara Region, UNHCR, in close collaboration with the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and IOM, has successfully relocated 196 individuals from the point of entry to the Kumer refugee site.
- In Kurmuk, Benishangul Gumuz Region (BGR) a total of 15 individuals with Sudanese nationality were registered upon arrival. These figures show reduction in the number of new arrivals in contrast to the past month.

### Security

A coordination meeting was held on 16 December 2023 at Metema entry point with Ethiopian authorities, Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and key UN Agencies to discuss population movements associated with the fighting between the Sudanese Army and RSF around Wad Madani in Sudan. The Ethiopian authorities informed humanitarians to be prepared for possible influx of new arrivals at the three entry points (Metema, Kurmuk, and Almahal).

### Population Movements

As of 17 December, **40,489** refugees and asylum-seekers, including 2,918 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia. Of these, 19,555 crossed through the Metema entry point in Amhara, 17,316 through the Kurmuk entry point in BGR and 700 individuals through different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey). Most of the new arrivals are Sudanese (67.1 per cent), followed by Eritreans (18.8 per cent), Ethiopian returnees (9.9 per cent) and South Sudanese (4.0 per cent).

### Registration and Protection

**Registration:** At Metema entry point, First Level registration (L1) of 67 individuals of new arrivals were screened and pre-registered in the Kobo tool. Level 3 registration (L3) is ongoing in Kumer site. During the reporting week, 430 individuals have undergone L3 registration making the total **2,719 from 1,375 families**.

In Kurmuk, 15 individuals from 5 families of Sudanese nationality were registered upon arrival using the KOBO Tool.

**Child Protection:** Some 21 separated children (9 girls and 12 boys) were identified by community social workers and community-based structure such as the Refugee Central Committee (RCC). As of the most current report, Plan International's caseload is 648 (290 girls). Among them, 570 (257 girls) were separated (SC), 35 (9 girls) were unaccompanied minors (UAM), and the remaining 43 (24 girls) were other vulnerable children (OVC). Additionally, 21 (9 girls) separated children, and a total of 501 (190 girls) had been addressed through best interests' assessments (BIAs).

Home visits and follow-ups through community social workers and community-based structures have been carried out for a commutative total of 624 (279 girls) UASC and OVC. Furthermore, referrals of children to the Red Cross have been carried out for a total of 9 (5 girls) cases with family tracing needs.

The emergency Child-Friendly Space (CFS) established at Kurmuk transit center is regularly operating and providing non-specialized Psychosocial Support (PSS) services to children of refugees, reaching an average 512 (271 girls) children with indoor and outdoor play activities. High-energy biscuits are provided to children who visit the CFS.

Through Plan International, 173 individuals from 87 families that are extremely vulnerable children received Core Relief Items (CRIs) in Kumer refugee site. Additional 116 vulnerable children and their families were verified and received coupons for CRIs. Verification of 129 (56 female) is still ongoing through IHS and RCC screening to be considered for the next CRIs' distribution.

Gender-based violence: In Kumer, World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) and Ethiopia Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC) conducted mass awareness raising on GBV, GBV types, causes and consequences, reaching out to over 400 individuals. DICAC received GBV cases and supported with referral to the Federal Police as well as with livelihood services.

In Kurmuk, International Rescue Committee (IRC) conducted two awareness raising sessions on GBV and reporting mechanisms, reaching 726 individuals (355 Female, 371 Male). One coffee discussion in the community (zone A), covering a total of 21 individuals.

### **Education**

In Kumer, 120 children attended weekly socio emotional learning.

### **Health and nutrition response**

Health: In Kurmuk, Health services are being provided at the Transit Centre. Some 342 people received clinical consultation services among whom 62 are under the age of five. The two main diseases that cause morbidity are upper and lower respiratory tract infections and malaria. In Kumer, OPD consultations were provided to 344 adults and 63 children under the age of five from the refugee population. Additionally, 73 adults and 26 children under the age of five from the hosting community received medical care during this period.

Kurmuk transit center continues to provide sexual and reproductive health services, including house-to-house visits by health social workers a total of 511 individuals were reached. The subject of the discussion was reproductive health services. Moreover, 60 women in the range of reproductive age participated in four coffee talk sessions where the subject of reproductive health services was included.

A community discussion about HIV/AIDS preventive strategies was conducted with thirty people. Likewise, A total of 1,728 male condoms were provided to users by health social workers, in three retail locations, RRS health facility, and a community-based Reproductive Health (RH) center at Kurmuk transit center.

Nutrition: In Kurmuk Transit Center, children under five were screened for acute malnutrition. Some 12 under five-year-olds were screened, two of them had severe acute malnutrition, and four of them had moderate acute malnutrition. These children were then admitted to an outpatient treatment program and a targeted supplemental feeding program.

In Kumer, a total of 72 children under the age of five and 12 pregnant and breastfeeding women underwent malnutrition screening, identifying 9 cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) – 4 in children under five and 5 in pregnant & breastfeeding women. Routine immunization services were provided, antenatal care (ANC) was extended to 2 pregnant women, and health messages were disseminated to the public, reaching 75 individuals.

### **WASH**

Kurmuk Transit Centre's water system is being distributed, with 10 liters per person being distributed daily. The dewatering pump has encountered some difficulties; as a result, it is currently being replaced with a backup pump while the requested spare part for the damaged pump has been purchased and fixed.

At present, construction work for replacing nine filled-up latrines at Kurmuk transit center is being outsourced to CISP, an Italian operational partner situated in Benishangul Gumz. Also, WASH detail assessment for the new location has been completed, and the project's minimal tasks have been determined, and work on estimating costs is presently underway.



## EGYPT

### Highlights

- 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 the Government of Egypt.
- UNHCR Egypt has so far fully registered 125,000 new arrivals from Sudan, 90 per cent of whom are Sudanese.
- Egypt participated in a high-level panel on the Sudan crisis and made pledges on health, education, conflict resolution, and climate change during the second Global Refugee Forum held in Geneva from 13-15 December.
- Some 60 Sudanese refugees, mostly women, participated in a theatre play and a music performance organized by UNHCR and its partner CARE in Aswan to raise awareness about gender-based violence.

### Registration and Protection

**Protection:** The Government of Egypt participated in the second Global Refugee Forum that took place from 13-15 December and closed with over \$2.2 billion in pledges to improve the lives of refugees and host countries. The Government of Egypt made pledges on health, education, conflict resolution, and climate change during the forum. In addition, Dr Ahmed Ihab Gamaleldin, Ambassador of Egypt to the United Nations in Geneva, engaged in several events, including a high-level panel on Sudan. He emphasized Egypt's efforts since the onset of the ongoing crisis to facilitate the entry of Sudanese people into Egypt, ensuring they receive essential humanitarian, health, and livelihood services on an equitable basis with Egyptian citizens. He also highlighted the need to focus on resolving the underlying causes of the conflict and investing in fulfilling the developmental requirements of local communities, aiming to bolster their resilience.

**Registration:** As of 15 December, UNHCR Egypt had provided pre-registration appointments to 192,158 newly arrived people from Sudan (89,778 households), of whom 125,663 (60,551 households), i.e., 65%, were already registered. Most of the registered population are Sudanese nationals (90%), while the other main nationalities registered are South Sudanese (4%), and Eritrean (3%).

**Community-based Protection:** During the last week, refugee outreach workers provided support to some 5,480 new arrivals from Sudan at UNHCR's 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 counselling to 3,200 refugees and asylum-seekers and referred 24 cases for in-depth assessment.

**Gender-based violence:** Last week, UNHCR supported cultural activities in Aswan attended by some 60 Sudanese refugees, mostly women. One of the activities involved participatory theatre training, during which refugees prepared a scene focused on gender-based violence prevention. Additionally, participants practiced singing popular Sudanese songs, modifying the lyrics of one of the songs to raise awareness about violence against women. Following the training, a musical and theatre performance occurred on 12 December, attended by the Sudanese community in Aswan. Other activities included a henna drawing workshop, where participants shared ideas on the use of this traditional Sudanese art and created their designs, and a film screening.

**Infoline:** 11,071 inquiries were handled by UNHCR's Infoline last week and registration appointments were given to 9,343 people who have fled Sudan. This brings the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the system to 105,784. 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.

### Livelihoods

UNHCR, through its implementing partners (Refuge Egypt, CRS, Caritas Alexandria and Don Bosco), has provided livelihood support to 5,842 people in 2023 - 73% women - including some 360 refugees and asylum-seekers newly arrived from Sudan. This support included guidance on the Egyptian labour market

and matching employers with potential employees while ensuring minimum standards are met. In this sense, 477 individuals found a job after taking part in UNHCR programmes in 2023. Moreover, UNHCR supported 407 entrepreneurs with cash grants and mentoring to establish businesses. All these efforts helped refugees to navigate a challenging labour market which is characterized by a significant informal sector and chronic unemployment.

In Alexandria, UNHCR partner Caritas organized a job fair that was attended by some 500 refugees (some 90% Sudanese) on 10 December. The fair focused on three main sectors: technology, sewing, and humanitarian work. During the event, 15 companies offered job opportunities for people forced to flee.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### Highlights

- **Attack on UNHCR convoy:** Two refugees have been reported dead following an attack on a UNHCR convoy transporting 137 Sudanese refugees from Abyei to the Wedweil refugee settlement on 13 December. The vehicle carrying the refugees was surrounded by armed youth who forced all onboard to alight before abducting two men. While the rest of the convoy was able to reach Wedweil safely, local authorities later reported that both men had been found dead. Further information on the incident is available via the following [link](#).
- **Cholera Preparedness:** UNHCR and relevant health actors are accelerating cholera response and preparedness following the confirmation of one cholera case identified in Renk. Cholera screening and isolation sites have been erected at the Joda Border Point and Bulukat Transit Centre in Malakal to support early detection and treatment. This response is also being reinforced with increased latrine construction, water provision, distribution of hygiene kits, and information dissemination.

### Population Movements

As of 17 December, **101,687** households/ **443,516** individuals have arrived in South Sudan, with **2,369** households/ **9,722** individuals arriving this week, marking a **seven** per cent decrease on last week's **10,412** new arrivals.

Approximately **92 per cent** entered via the Joda/Renk border point, followed by **five** per cent crossing via Abyei and **one** per cent via Panakuach. South Sudanese returnees comprise the vast majority (**83 per cent**) of new arrivals. Additional arrival data is available via the following [link](#).

### Protection

Access to Territory: In Renk, inflow trends continued to decrease reportedly related to higher transportation costs, restricted movement and forcibly displaced families choosing to first reunite in locations close to the border, before crossing into South Sudan. In comparison, outflow trends from Renk increased, with limited access to food, basic assistance and family visits cited as the top reasons motivating spontaneous departure.

In Abyei, most refugee arrivals originate from Nyala and recount looting and harassment during their flight. Meanwhile, approximately, 400 South Sudanese returnees arrived from Madani to Abyei due to ongoing conflict in eastern Sudan. Returnees arrived with the support of DETCRO, a local NGO in Abyei. This is the second group of returnees supported by this organisation in the past month.

In Panakuach, new arrivals reported abuse and human rights violations during their flight. Arrivals from Heglig in particular, reported sexual abuse and looting of civilian property by soldiers. Other forms of violence reported included extortion and harassment at checkpoints by armed groups along the El Obeid – Kharasana route of North and West Kordofan. The deterioration of security conditions in Kharsana has caused an acute lack of food, water, and medical services, increasing the likelihood of further displacement into South Sudan via Panakuach.

### Health and Nutrition

UNHCR supports a WHO-led cholera response and preparedness with relevant health actors following the confirmation of one cholera case in Renk. Cholera screening and isolation sites have been erected at Joda Border Point and Bulukat Transit Centre in Malakal to support early detection and treatment. This

response is also reinforced by increased latrine construction, water provision, distribution of hygiene kits, and information dissemination.

Health actors in Renk are also responding to suspected Bilharzia cases and liaising with the Ministry of Health to support with medication.

Across most transit centres, the most reported morbidity remains malaria, with a recent increase in respiratory tract infections as the climate gets colder.

### **WASH**

WASH actors are constructing latrines to mitigate the spread of cholera across Malakal and Renk transit centres. Nevertheless, substantial gaps persist in Renk where the current latrine ratio stands at 1 latrine to 200 individuals, which is significantly below the recommended 1:20 individuals standard.

### **Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)**

Construction of an additional 65 semi-permanent communal shelters at the Renk extension site is nearing completion, with the capacity to accommodate approximately 2,000 individuals. Additional funding is required to construct the remaining 45 shelters initially planned for phase one.

Shelter construction is also underway in Pamir Refugee Camp with 16 emergency shelters for 37 new arrival families and more to be built in the coming weeks.

In Wedwil Refugee Settlement, 40 family tents were installed to accommodate 280 refugee new arrivals from Abyei and those who self-relocated from the borders.

### **IT and Telcoms**

The IT team has established stable internet connectivity in the Aweil and Wedwil offices. A new power backup system will also be installed in Aweil to ensure uninterrupted service delivery.

In Wedwil, the IT team is actively supporting L2 registration activities and has extended internet connectivity to partners such as World Vision International and ALIGHT. However, the absence of a local mobile network, specifically from operators MTN and ZAIN, remains a significant challenge in Wedwil.

## **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 11 December, total funding of USD 375 million has been recorded or **38%** 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 998.4 million or **38.9%** of the requirements ([OCHA FTS](#)).

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## 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 11 December, the total available funding for the appeal was USD 166.3 million or **33%** of the funding requirements ([Sudan Situation Funding Update](#)).

## Resources

- [UNHCR Cross border movement – outflow and incoming flow as of 30 November 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:** Evelyne Waikwa – Reporting Associate, RB EHAGL ([waikwa@unhcr.org](mailto:waikwa@unhcr.org)).