

Sudan: Emergency Response to Internal Displacement

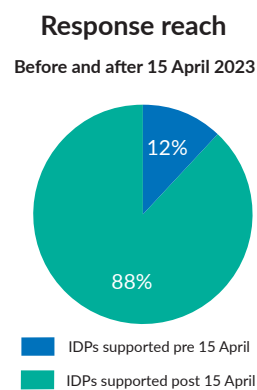
January 2023 – March 2024

Sudan hosts the largest population of internally displaced people globally, with nearly **6.5 million people** displaced since the outbreak of armed conflict in April 2023 and **3.8 million internally displaced** people prior to the conflict. The scale of needs surpasses the capacity of humanitarian response efforts, especially in overcrowded gathering sites, camps, and host community locations where internally displaced people (IDPs) have settled, leading to a severe humanitarian crisis.

The **host community is bearing the burden** of the first-line response and requires more support as its capacity falls short of meeting the extensive needs. Both cross-line and cross-border **access challenges persist** in the current environment. This lack of access has limited the delivery of essential supplies by humanitarian organizations, resulting in widespread hunger and malnutrition among the affected population exacerbating the protection crisis.

2023-2024 Emergency Response Overview

From April 2023 to February 2024, UNHCR and its partners reached over 630,000 internally displaced people in a very challenging and complex operational environment. Of those, 88% were supported since April 2023. With variations in scope, UNHCR responds in 15 of Sudan's 18 states. Despite the significant conflict impact on the Darfur region, UNHCR has retained a sizeable response where humanitarian space is available and access is permitted. The most notable expansion of UNHCR's IDP response took place across all the eastern states and in the North, where the response is largely new.



Distribution of core relief items in Sennar State to 720 IDP families displaced due to the conflict ©UNHCR

- UNHCR implements a life-saving multi-sector emergency response, providing critical protection assistance, services and referrals, cash for protection or basic needs, core-relief items, and emergency shelter support, alongside site management services.
- Community-based protection networks play a pivotal role in the protection response to identify vulnerable people in urgent need of assistance, and act as an early warning mechanism on conflict triggers. The establishment of multi-purpose community centres (MPCCs) as one-stop shops also contributes to improved access to protection, referral services, and multi-sector assistance.
- UNHCR's response is based on protection monitoring and identifying people-at-risk or with specific needs to support those most in need.
- UNHCR works with partners, IDP-led non-governmental organizations and local authorities driving the localization agenda forward along with the coordination of the protection, shelter/ non-food items and site management sectors.
- Cross-border and cross-line activities play a vital role to enhance the response in hard-to-reach locations like the Darfur states. Expanding these response modalities operations and having unrestricted access is essential to reach vulnerable populations, and deliver much-needed assistance in a timely and efficient manner.

2023 - 2024 Emergency Response Highlights

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Multi-purpose community centres (MPCC) are under establishment.

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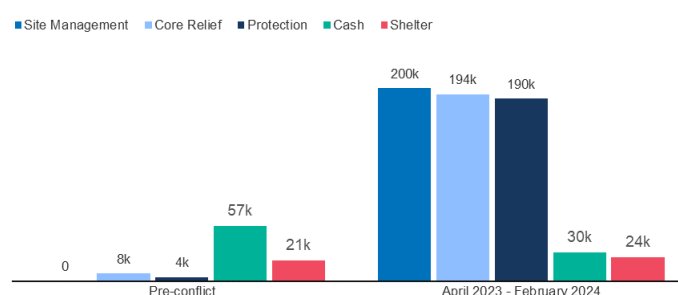
Community - based protection networks set up.

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Partners working with UNHCR in Sudan

UNHCR's community-based response is tailored to the new displacement reality in Sudan where the majority of IDPs stay in host community settings. It enables more equal access to available services and strengthens social cohesion between communities. UNHCR's response places the role of communities as first-line responders at its centre and strengthens communities' resilience and capacities. From 2023 to date, UNHCR jointly with communities and partners has made considerable progress in rolling out the community-based response.

IDP Reached Per Sector| Before and After April 2023



- UNHCR's **cash-based assistance** is an integral component of UNHCR's community-based response. In 2024 UNHCR will scale up the use of cash assistance to strengthen protection and resilience of IDP households, picking up from the milestones achieved in 2023. It will be done in a collaborative manner with partners, local authorities, financial service providers, and other key stakeholders.
- Already in the **first quarter of 2024**, UNHCR provided **500 IDP households** with **cash for emergency shelter** in Blue Nile State and 610 IDPs received cash assistance as part of **individual protection assistance** in East Darfur State. In addition, preparatory work is underway to scale-up multi-purpose cash assistance, individual protection assistance and other sector cash interventions for IDP households in across Sudan.
- **15 multi-purpose community centres** (MPCCs) are being established in collaboration with the community in White Nile, Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, and Northern states and MPCC management committees are being set up to run the centres with UNHCR and its partners' support. The existing MPCCs in White Nile and Wad Halfa are being renovated and in the five Darfur states, UNHCR has trained partners on community centre management, identified locations for MPCCs, and mapped catchment areas.
- **Over 50 community-based protection networks (CBPNs) were established** across Sudan in 2023 and its members trained for community outreach and mobile response. They are actively involved in protection monitoring, raising awareness on protection issues, early warning, identifying people with specific needs, making referrals, engaging in social cohesion activities, and supporting dispute resolution. Some of these networks are specialized, such as the para-legal network which provides legal awareness on civil documentation. In addition, despite the disruption to connectivity, **UNHCR maintains contact with 52 CBPNs** which cover the main hotspot areas for protection monitoring in the Darfur region.
- **UNHCR and its partners support community initiatives in MPCCs** ranging from recreational activities and clean-up campaigns to community-to-community skills exchanges. For example, in East Darfur State, IDP youth organised sports activities and awareness campaigns on peace with their host community peers contributing significantly to social cohesion. Similarly, in Kassala State, youth representatives from IDP and host communities are contributing to the centres with their skills and experience, ranging from martial arts to vocational skills training, for example in human resource management.
- **Investments in communities** as first-line responders is centred on community capacity building like for the community volunteers of emergency rooms, which are community initiatives to support those affected by this crisis. Trainings range from community-based protection to medical and psychological first aid. In addition, UNHCR supports community structures to organize themselves and provides material support. For example, in White Nile State, one IDP-led organization with 30 members has been registered with the Humanitarian Aid Commission of Sudan, and with UNHCR support the organization will implement livelihood and social cohesion activities in the state.

Advocacy Messages

- Ensuring the protection of civilians, who have been disproportionately impacted by the conflict, is paramount. Their lives, safety, freedom of movement, and property must be safeguarded by those in charge.
- It is crucial that local authorities and parties involved in the conflict facilitate access for humanitarian actors to assess needs and assist the most vulnerable.
- Cross-border and cross-line modalities are critical to facilitate timely delivery of life-saving in-kind assistance to internally displaced and other vulnerable people in Sudan.
- Additional resources are needed to scale-up UNHCR's IDP response to in Sudan, including support to host communities, using a conflict-sensitive approach.



A gathering of displaced families affected by the ongoing conflict in Central Darfur ©UNHCR

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Sudan Emergency IDP Response Factsheet, November 2023:

<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/105114>

For further information on UNHCR's engagement on internal displacement globally, visit:

<https://www.unhcr.org/internally-displaced-people.html>