EXTERNAL UPDATE

Central African Republic (CAR) – SUDAN SITUATION

24 April 2024

Food distribution to Sudanese refugees at Korsi- Birao. @UNHCR - Ph. S. Fatime

Highlights

- It has now been over one year since the outbreak of conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Sudan has become one of the world's worst humanitarian tragedies and one of the largest internal displacement crises globally. Millions are on the brink of famine.
- According to the latest Global Report on Food Crises, a joint initiative involving FAO, UNICEF and WFP, 20.3 million people in Sudan – or 42 per cent of the population – struggled to find enough toeat last year. This represents the highest number of people in the world facing "emergency" levels of acute food insecurity, or phase four, in line with the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification warning scale (where phase five indicates the highest level of danger).
- On 19 April, UN and African Union officials warned the UN Security Council that the world must rethink the way it supports the Sudanese people amid rampant atrocities against civilians and no end in sight.

Situation and Operational Response

- The security situation remains volatile in the Vakaga prefecture. This Prefecture, which hosts most Sudanese refugees in CAR, continue to face considerable security challenges due to theactivities of non-state armed groups, including allegations of the presence of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) from Sudan. These groups continue to disrupt the lives of civilians and humanitarian interventions in the region. MINUSCA's presence at Am Dafock appears to havesecured the main border crossing point with Sudan, but infiltration continues along the porous border.
- UNHCR and the *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CNR) continued coordinating border monitoring, reception, screening, and registration of new arrivals. Along with CNR and humanitarian partners, UNHCR provided lifesaving assistance, including protection services, food, CRIs, emergency shelter, health care and education at Korsi settlement.

Population Movements and Registration

Sudanese refugees continue to arrive in CAR. They are arriving through several border entry points, the majority entering through Am Dafock (65 km from Birao town) in the Vakaga prefecture and proceeding to Korsi settlement in the town of Birao. This week, 43 new arrivals (22 households) were recorded and biometrically registered. However, there has been a significant drop over the last three weeks compared with March. This general drop is linked to the relatively improved security situation in the areas of origin.

29,444 forcibly displaced people from Sudan have arrived in CAR since April 2023, including 23,286 Sudanese refugees and 6,158 Central African returnees (former CAR refugees in Sudan).

The population in Korsi (Vakaga prefecture) is 11,196 Sudanese refugees (4,878 households), representing an increase of 291% compared to December 2023. Since January, 7,965 Sudanese refugees (3,538 families) have arrived in Korsi (Birao town), mainly from Darfur. This overcrowding has deteriorated hygiene and sanitation conditions, with 150 people per emergency latrine. The quantity of water distributed has also fallen below 12 liters per person per day - this despite doubling the potable water output since January.

A total of 14,858 (5,181 households) Sudanese refugees have been biometrically registered and live in 13 localities, mostly in hard-to-reach locations outside Vakaga prefecture and in need of protection and assistance. Biometric registration is underway for the rest of the Sudanese Refugees already pre-registered.

Protection

Protection monitoring

INTERSOS conducted 13 monitoring visits, including two joint missions last week in Korsi (07), Sikikédé and Ouanda-Djallé (2), where Sudanese refugees live, as well as in the host community in Birao (04). These visits enabled the identification and documentation of 77 protection incidents, including 51 cases of violation of property rights, 12 cases of physical violation and 14 cases of sexual and gender-based violence, which were referred to relevant services. These visits also enabled the capacity building of community relays, and the protection monitors conducted nine perception surveys among newly arrived refugee households in Sikikédé, who expressed an urgent need for food, essential relief items (CRIs) and shelter. In addition, a border monitoring visit was conducted on 17 April to the border area of Am Dafock to assess the protection situation, including identifying GVB cases and responding to identified protection incidents. Refugees and the host community in Am Dafock have reported the continuation of the detonation of weapons in Am Dafock, Sudan, and the pursuit of armed conflict, leading to the limitation of movement from Sudan towards CAR.

At the information and feedback center, 28 requests for information and assistance were received, and five positive feedbacks were recorded this week. The primary requests concerned cases of refugees whose names had not appeared on the distribution and assistance lists for over three months and questions relating to food assistance.

Prevention and Response against gender-based violence (GBV)

In the Safe Space at the Birao District Hospital, managed by UNFPA's partner *Olivier Homme de Galilée*, awareness-raising sessions on the prevention of GBV were organized throughout the week with the participation of 210 people, including 61 newly arrived refugees at Korsi. Group psychosocial support sessions were also organized, benefitting 20 people.

In the Safe Space at Korsi settlement, managed by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS, 14 cases of gender-based violence were received and documented, including 10 cases of physical violence, three cases of psychological violence and one case of denial of resources and opportunities. All survivors received psychosocial support, and three survivors of physical violence were referred to the IMC health center and received the necessary treatment.

Dignity kits, consisting of a mosquito net, clothing, fabric, a whistle, a solar lamp, a wash basin, and both reusable and disposable menstrual hygiene pads, were distributed to survivors. Three group therapy sessions were held last week at the Korsi safe space, with 206 women and girls participating.

Health and Nutrition

UNFPA's partner Olivier Homme de Galilée, assisted four deliveries, including two refugees. In addition, 32 people, including six refugees, benefitted from sexual and reproductive health services. 22 prenatal

consultations, including for three refugees, and one postnatal follow-up were conducted.

NOURRIR and International Medical Corps (IMC) completed 688 medical consultations, benefiting 71 host community members and 500 refugees, including 32 new arrivals to Korsi. Since the beginning of the year, 11,459 curative consultations have been carried out in Korsi to respond to the Sudan crisis, including 1,129 host community members. The top three causes of morbidity were malaria (21% of cases), respiratory infections (20% of cases) and intestinal parasitosis (18% of cases). All patients were managed on an outpatient basis.

This week, the medical team followed up on 11 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and two cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Since January, 417 children have received treatment for MAM and 48 children for SAM.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

As the population continues to increase and exceed capacity, the ratio of water dispensed per person per day and the number of people per latrine is still increasingly below humanitarian standards. It is, therefore, urgent that WASH actors build more infrastructure to raise standards.

Hygiene promotion activities continue in Korsi to ensure that refugees live in a healthy environment. UNHCR and its partner NOURRIR carried out this week's awareness-raising campaigns for 495 people on good practices around water usage and cleaning community spaces (latrines and showers, health centers, and water distribution points).

Coordination

UNHCR continues to support the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) to lead and coordinate the Sudan refugee response. In Birao, whereby regular meetings with all relevant actors intervening in the area can exchange on the opportunities, challenges, and solutions vis a vis refugees living in Korsi and the areas nearby.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) – January – December 2024

- On 7 February, UNHCR and 81 organizations launched the Regional Refugee Response Plan, with an appeal for **USD 46.2 million for the Central African Republic (CAR)** to provide essential aid and protection to 71,176 people in need, **including 39,876 refugees** fleeing the ongoing conflict in Sudan by the end of 2024. As of 24 April, the funding for the CAR remains at some USD 3.1 million or **7%** of the requirements.

UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – January - December 2024

- UNHCR's total financial requirement for the 2024 Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal – in Sudan and neighboring countries – amounts to **USD 988.1 million**. As of 10 April, the total available funding for the appeal is **12%** of the funding requirements.

Resources

- UNHCR dashboard: Sudan Situation: One year on
- Data story: Sudan: One year of spiralling conflict and displacement
- UNHCR's Operational Data Portal (ODP) for the Sudan Situation provides daily updates on therefugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan's neighboring countries.
- UNHCR Global Focus Sudan Operation page
- End of Year Report Sudan Regional RRP 2023

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