

Central African Republic (CAR) – SUDAN SITUATION

1 May 2024



A water bladder equipped with a solar pump, inaugurated in Korsi-Birao, to improve water distribution and meet the needs of Sudanese refugees. @UNHCR - Ph. S. Fatime

Highlights

- It has 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.
- On 25 April, the United Nation's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator [said](#) that more than a year into the battle for control of the country between rival militaries, the "barbaric acts" being committed "echo the horrors witnessed in Darfur two decades ago". They urged Security Council members to take immediate action to ensure an end to the wave of sexual violence being carried out against women and girls in Sudan.
- On 27 April, UN Security Council members [called](#) on the two parties in Sudan to immediately halt the military build-up and take steps to de-escalate the situation in El Fasher, North Darfur. The call comes amid reports of an imminent offensive by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and their allied militia against the city. On 29 April, the United States ambassador to the UN, [warned](#) that more than 2 million people in El Fasher, are under imminent threat of a "large-scale massacre" and urged the international community to pressure the two warring parties to scale back. The UN Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator also [warned](#) that an escalation of hostilities there would be "catastrophic".

Situation and Operational Response

- The security situation remains volatile and unpredictable in the Vakaga prefecture due to the presence of non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in localities neighboring Birao, such as Saf-Rah, Haiffa, Boromata, Am Dafock, Tiringoulou and in Birao. This prefecture hosts most of the Sudanese refugees in CAR, and the activism and presence of NSAGs continue to disrupt the lives of civilians and humanitarian interventions in the region, including freedom of movement. This increased the number of human rights violations recorded in Birao town.
- Continuing military operations by the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) and their allies in the Vakaga prefecture and the prefectures hosting refugees and armed groups could undermine the fragile protection environment. This could lead to suspending or restricting movement in certain villages, particularly for humanitarian aid workers.
- 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.
- The Minister for Humanitarian Action visited Korsi, where she inaugurated a 1,000-litre water tower funded by UN Women. The tower will contribute to the water distribution capacity in Korsi.

Population Movements and Registration

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). Since the beginning of the year, 8,075 newly arrived Sudanese (3,575 households) have been recorded. Additionally, other movements have been reported in other localities, and further registration missions are scheduled for May in Sam Ouandja, Bria, Ippy, and Mboki, targeting around 4,000 refugees.

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. They need protection and assistance. Biometric registration is underway for the Sudanese refugees who are already pre-registered.

Local authorities reported two small waves of new arrivals in Sikikede in the Vakaga and in Pombolo in the Mbomou Prefectures. An assessment mission to Sikikede confirmed the figures of 1,911 new arrivals, while in Pombolo, the mission counted 265 refugees, with more on the way, according to the refugees. The pre-registration mission with the government for these two groups is planned during the course of May, security and logistical conditions permitting.

Refugee registration is ongoing in locations other than Vakaga. From 12-26 April 2024, a registration mission was carried out in the Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture. 1,449 Sudanese refugees were biometrically registered in the localities of Akroussoulbak, Koundji, Zobossinda and Ndele.

The population in Korsi (Vakaga prefecture) is 11,243 Sudanese refugees (4,902 households). The situation in Korsi is dire and has led to severe deterioration in hygiene and sanitation conditions, with only 74 functioning latrines and over 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. UNHCR and UNICEF are working in close collaboration, pooling their resources and expertise, to explore their ability to support the WASH response to the Sudanese emergency and provide a better response in this sector.

Protection

Reception and registration

The Central African Republic (CAR) has continued to keep its borders open to allow access to refugees and asylum seekers from all countries. Wherever the presence of new refugees has been confirmed, notably in the Mbomou/Rafai prefecture (Mbiro, Ngutiforo and Dembia), the Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture (Ndele, Akoursoulbak Zobossinda, Koundji), Haute-Kotto (Sam-Ouandja and Bria) and the Ouaka prefecture (Bambari and Ippy), government personnel have been deployed to ensure the pre-registration and documentation of new arrivals.

All Sudanese arriving in CAR are recognized as prima facie refugees. Following biometric registration, refugee cards are systematically issued to all refugees over the age of 12.

A mobile registration team has been established to ensure individual registration and biometric enrolment in all areas where the presence of refugees is confirmed.

Protection monitoring

INTERSOS conducted 15 monitoring visits, including four in the host community of Birao and 11 to Korsi. These visits enabled the management of GBV cases, updated the lists of people with specific needs, and identified and documented protection incidents. A total of 89 protection incidents were identified, including 49 cases of violation of property rights and cases of physical violation.

Five perception surveys were also conducted among newly arrived refugee households in Korsi, enabling the identification of their most urgent needs, which are food, core relief items, drinking water, and shelter.

In addition, nine border monitoring visits were conducted at Am Dafock to assess the protection situation of refugees and the collection of GBV-related incidents. Refugees and the host community members have reported regular movements of armed men that led to the restriction of their movement on the main roads' axis.

At the information and feedback center, a total of 100 requests for information and assistance were registered and documented, and 82 feedbacks were given to refugees. 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 Korsi safe space, GBV cases were received and documented, cases of physical violence, forced marriage, rape, psychological violence and denial of resources and opportunities. All survivors received psychosocial support, and survivors of physical violence and rape were referred to the IMC health center and received the necessary treatment.

UNHCR's partner, INTERSOS, distributed 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.

Fifty-six individual counseling sessions were conducted with newly arrived people with specific needs in Korsi. Finally, three group therapy sessions were held at the Korsi safe space, with 216 women and girls participating.

Health and Nutrition

UNFPA's partner Olivier Homme de Galilee, assisted two deliveries of refugee women in Korsi.

NOURRIR and International Medical Corps (IMC) completed 573 medical consultations, benefiting 87 host community members and 486 refugees, including 144 new arrivals to Korsi. Since the beginning of the year, 12,032 curative consultations have been carried out in Korsi to respond to the Sudan crisis, including 1,216 host community members. The top three causes of morbidity were malaria, respiratory infections and intestinal parasitosis. 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).

WFP food distribution was completed this week, and 4,394 households of 9,712 people were planned, with an execution rate of 87%. This week only, 3,534 households of 8,486 people were served.

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 1 May, 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**. 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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