

Sudan

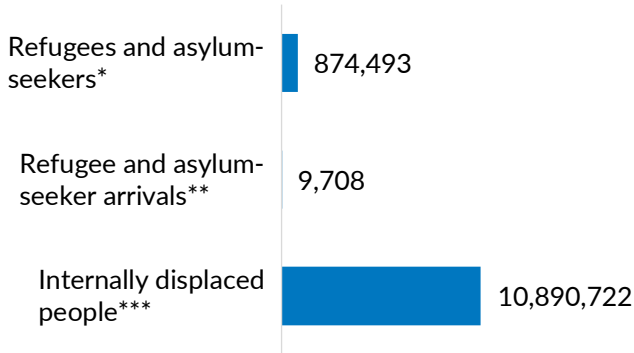
September 2024

The conflict in Sudan has led to **the world's largest displacement crisis**. Since April 2023 over **11.3 million people** have been forced to flee - 8.1 million of whom are internally displaced and more than 2.3 million people have fled to neighbouring countries.

Sudan hosts close to **875,000 refugees and asylum-seekers**, many of whom have faced multiple displacements due to the conflict. Despite the conflict, **close to 10,000 people** have sought international protection in Sudan since January 2024.

Half of Sudan's population, over **25 million people, are food insecure** with 800,000 at critical levels. Food insecurity, fuel shortages, flooding and a cholera outbreak are causing the situation to deteriorate further.

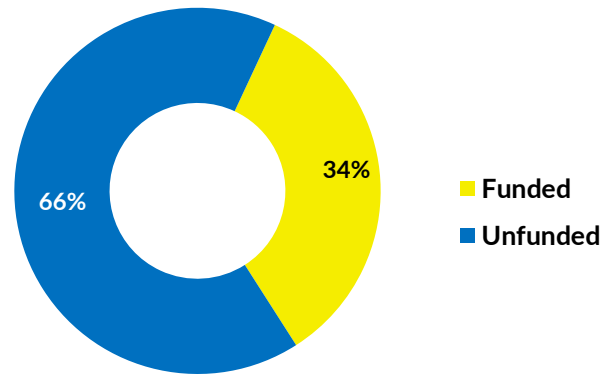
FORCIBLY DISPLACED POPULATION



Sources:
 *UNHCR ProGres September 2024
 **UNHCR (Arrivals January – September 2024)
 *** IOM DTM Sudan Mobility Update (08) as at 24 September 2024
 (<https://dtm.iom.int/reports/dtm-sudan-mobility-update-08?close=true>)

FUNDING (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2024)

USD 424 million
requested for the Sudan Operation in 2024



UNHCR and COR resumed biometric registration in White Nile State. ©UNHCR/A. Romo



Operational Context

In September 2024, the working environment in Sudan did not improve. The conflict continued unabated, with intense fighting witnessed in Khartoum, Al Jazirah, the Kordofan and Darfur States saw regular fighting displacing thousands of people daily. By end-September 2024, almost 11 million people were internally displaced, of whom close to 3 million were displaced prior to April 2023. Another 2.3 million people have sought safety in neighbouring countries.

In early September 2024, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Protection Strategy in Sudan, submitted by UNHCR as Protection Cluster Lead Agency, was endorsed. The strategy is built around the centrality of protection and is intended to mobilize a comprehensive, system-wide and multi-sector effort to prevent and/or respond to the most serious protection risks faced by affected people and to prevent and stop recurrences of violations. It enables the HCT to take collective action on protection priorities which go beyond the scope of the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan and the Protection Cluster objectives. The implementation framework which accompanies the strategy foresees regular progress reporting based on commonly agreed indicators. The implementation plan requires collective advocacy, guidance on strategic protection issues, and an inclusive approach to protection and assistance.



UNHCR staff discussing needs with flood-affected IDPs in Kassala State. Photo: UNHCR/M. Abdulmajid

Under the Inter-agency Standing Committee Framework for IDP emergencies, UNHCR leads the Protection, Shelter and Non-food Items and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters at national and sub-national level in Sudan. UNHCR leads the inter-agency refugee response with the Commission of Refugees (COR) to address the protection and assistance needs of refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan.

End-September, UNHCR had 79% of its 424-strong workforce based inside Sudan. The others are either working from the Chad and Nairobi Support Hubs or from other locations for a variety of reasons including footprint reduction or inaccessibility due to the conflict. UNHCR has 17 offices in Sudan of which nine are either temporarily closed or under remote management. UNHCR is working within the UN common system to establish presence in Hubs in key hard-to-reach areas.

Achievements



PROTECTION

- In mid-August 2024, UNHCR re-established its presence in Karari locality, Khartoum State. UNHCR, the Commission of Refugees (COR) and partners have resumed registration of refugees and asylum-seekers, provide legal assistance and representation, undertake protection monitoring and identify people with specific needs. Protection monitoring in the area has determined that refugees and asylum-seekers are facing numerous challenges, such as threats to physical safety, movement restrictions, lack of livelihood opportunities, and limited access to services. Also, women and girls reported that many of them had experienced gender-based violence since the start of the conflict and raised concerns that the facilities in their rented accommodation are inadequate. It was observed that there are many people with specific needs within the refugee community including female-headed households and unaccompanied or separated children. UNHCR and its partners are addressing some of these concerns by providing cash assistance so refugees and asylum-seekers can meet the most urgent basic needs and are seeking further solutions.
- UNHCR, its partners and community-based protection networks conduct protection monitoring in forcibly displaced and hosting communities, identifying key protection concerns and trends. The analysis of these concerns supports advocacy interventions with authorities and other specialised organisations to find solutions for the most vulnerable. As such, multi-purpose community centres (MPCC) are essential for people in hard-to-reach areas to access protection services, receive counselling and information or be referred for specific assistance. In White Nile State, UNHCR trained 36 volunteers on the community-based protection network system focussing on its added value to strengthen protection monitoring, improve communication and identify protection concerns within forcibly displaced communities in gathering sites.
- In September 2024, multi-purpose community centres across five Darfur States reached nearly 2,000 individuals providing psychosocial support, recreational activities, community meetings, and awareness-raising sessions. Community-based protection networks in Blue Nile State conducted a series of dialogues and awareness raising sessions for over 450 internally displaced people on the importance of education, the consequences of school drop-out and the need to support girls' education. These activities enable forcibly displaced and hosting communities voice common concerns, seek solutions collaboratively and build social relations.
- In Blue Nile State, UNHCR and its partners completed a multi-purpose community centre in the Al Banjadeed IDP gathering site and rehabilitated the Al-Gasam IDP gathering site MPCC both of which will strengthen the community support in these areas. In White Nile and Wadi Halfa States seven MPCCs are being rehabilitated to better serve the communities in which they are in. These centres serve as hubs for empowerment and support for displaced and hosting communities.

- In Gedaref State, over 2,000 women and girls visited the five Women and Girl's Centres in refugee camps to receive various protection services, receive counselling or be referred for specialised service providers. There are 14 Women and Girls' Centres in refugee camps in Gedaref, White Nile, Kassala and Blue Nile States which provide safe spaces for women and girls to seek guidance and information.
- Also in September over 1,050 refugees, IDPs and host community members facing heightened protection risks in South Darfur, East Darfur, and West Kordofan, received supplementary food and in-kind assistance like plastic sheets to support their immediate protection needs.



UNHCR and COR resumed biometric registration in White Nile State. UNHCR/A. Romo



Registration and Documentation

- In September 2024, close to 1,250 refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority of whom are South Sudanese sought international protection in Kassala, Kordofan and White Nile States, many of whom were not registered prior to the conflict. Despite the conflict, close to 10,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly from Eritrea, have arrived in Sudan since the beginning of the year seeking international protection in Sudan.
- The third quarter analysis of the refugee and asylum-seeker population determined there are a little over 874,000 living in Sudan, the majority of whom are South Sudanese in White Nile State. The analysis further showed that of this number some 258,000 refugees and asylum-seekers moved to other areas within Sudan since the start of the conflict in 2023. The White Nile State hosts the majority of secondary movers (79%) followed by Red Sea (6%) and Gedaref (3%) States.

- In Sudan, UNHCR and the Commission of Refugees (COR) register refugees and asylum-seekers providing them with documentation to legalise their status in the country. In September, UNHCR and COR registered over 3,700 refugees and asylum-seekers in Kassala, Red Sea, Gedaref, Khartoum and White Nile States. This number includes the new arrivals and others who have presented themselves for registration for a variety of reasons.
- Since the start of the year, UNHCR and COR have registered close to 17,000 refugees and asylum-seekers across Sudan. The majority being Eritreans followed by Ethiopians and South Sudanese. It must be noted that overall, South Sudanese are not new arrivals. They were already living in Sudan for some years and have opted to seek international protection due to the conflict. Meanwhile most of the registered Ethiopians and Eritreans have newly arrived due to instability in their countries of origin.
- Also during September, close to 5,000 refugees living in Gedaref, Khartoum, Kassala and Red Sea States were verified, their records updated and they received updated documentation to enable them access to essential services. So far this year, almost 160,000 refugees were verified and their household information updated to ascertain their whereabouts in the country.
- UNHCR and COR also issues documentation such as refugee IDs and/or photo slips to refugees and asylum-seekers. This enables them not only to access basic services, but also serves as legal identity, especially important during times of conflict to enable freedom of movement and avoid arrest or detention. Since January 2024, over 55,400 documents have been issued to refugees and asylum-seekers of which some 7,270 were issued in September alone in Gedaref, Kassala, Khartoum, Red Sea and White Nile States.
- UNHCR is in the final stages of expanding registration activities to Northern and River Nile States. These states have seen a rise in the number of refugees and asylum-seekers the majority moving from Khartoum State due to the conflict. Protection needs assessments are underway to map out refugee hosting locations to enable the efficient mobile registration activities once they commence.



Resettlement

- In 2024 so far, 79 cases comprising 267 refugees, the majority Eritreans, but also Ethiopians, Somalis and Congolese have departed on resettlement to Canada, Australia, the USA and Sweden. In September, 23 cases comprising 72 Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees departed on resettlement to Canada and Australia. To date, three refugees departed on complementary pathways.
- Since January 2024, UNHCR provided individual counselling and updates on resettlement case status to over 4,100 refugees reaching some 640 refugees in September alone. Due to the conflict, new resettlement case submissions are on hold, while urgent/emergency cases may still be submitted for consideration.



Child Protection

- In White Nile State, UNHCR and its partners identified some 219 children-at-risk in refugee camps, undertook best interest assessments and referred them to receive targeted assistance and services. These include but are not limited to receiving health care or psychosocial support, nutrition services and shelter assistance. To ensure the well-being of some 6,000 unaccompanied or separated refugee children living in alternative care arrangement were counselled and their care-givers received information on appropriate care.
- UNHCR and its partners conducted three psychosocial support and entertainment sessions in multi-purpose community centres in East and West Darfur reaching more than 400 forcibly displaced children in September.



Gender-based Violence

- UNHCR and partners distributed some 150 dignity kits to refugee, IDP, and host community women and girls of reproductive age living in East Darfur and West Kordofan enhancing their access to essential hygiene products and services.
- Nine awareness-raising sessions on GBV prevention, risk mitigation, response and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse took place in Women's and Girls Centres in refugee camps in Gedaref State, reaching over 200 forcibly displaced people. In East, Central and South Darfur States, UNHCR and its partners reached over 400 IDP and refugee women and girls sensitising them on issues such as female genital mutilation, exploitation, early marriage, GBV referral pathways and child rights. In Blue Nile State, UNHCR and partners reached 115 refugees through awareness-raising sessions on gender-based and domestic violence, early pregnancy and female empowerment. These sessions aim at informing communities on rights and obligations, available GBV services and support spreading messages on zero tolerance of GBV within communities.
- Gender-based violence safety audits took place in White Nile State's western refugee camps, Radis 2 and Khor Alwalral, during September. The assessments identified insufficient gender-segregated latrines, delays in food distribution and the prevalence of early pregnancies which expose women and girls to GBV risks. GBV safety audits are intended to assess the protection situation and identify needs of forcibly displaced people without seeking specific evidence of the occurrence of GBV within the community. Safety audits aims at collecting information on the perception of safety around GBV risks and to identify high-risk factors with a view to minimize risks within communities. They also enable forcibly displaced communities collaboratively address GBV risks, strengthen response, and improve recommendations for programming.



EDUCATION

- In September, UNHCR, the White Nile State Ministry of Education and partners held a three-day Teacher Preparatory Training Programme for over 150 primary and secondary teachers from Kosti and Rabak localities. The training aimed at equipping teachers with the necessary skills and attitudes to address the current education emergency. It covered topics such as education in emergencies, pedagogy, and protection principles.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- In September refugees were affected by the simultaneous outbreak of cholera in Kassala State, acute watery diarrhoea in Gedaref State and conjunctivitis in East, North and Central Darfur States. UNHCR is working closely with partners, the Ministry of Health and WHO to respond to these outbreaks.
- Since the declaration of the cholera outbreak in August, close to 380 refugees have contracted the disease and nine deaths have been recorded. In September 2024, over 170 new cholera cases and three deaths were reported showing a reduction of cases when compared with the previous months. About 50% of the Kassala refugee camp population received oral cholera vaccinations to curb the spread of the disease.
- In Gedaref State, close to 95 refugees have contracted acute water diarrhoea and are being treated by health care partners in the camps. During September, over 1,560 conjunctivitis cases were reported and treated among refugees in the Darfur States. Since the start of the outbreak in August, some 3,200 refugees have contracted and been treated for the disease.
- During September, over 100,000 outpatient consultations took place at health care facilities in refugee camps in Kassala, Gedaref, White Nile, Blue Nile, East Darfur and Kordofan States. Of this number close to 37,000 Sudanese nationals visited these at health facilities in the camps representing 37% of the total consultation, an increase 23% and 32% in July and August respectively. Analysis shows that malaria is the leading cause of morbidity representing almost 40% of all consultations (up from 35% in August), followed by upper and lower respiratory tract infections. Close to 300 people were referred to receive further treatment in secondary health care facilities outside the camps.
- The month of September saw a decrease in the number of pregnant women attending antenatal care at health care facilities from 3,696 in August to 3,142 mostly related to the lack of medicines or insufficient services, the latter particularly prevalent in the Darfur and Kordofan States. During the reporting period, over 1,560 doses of measles and over 1,000 doses of Pentavalent, which protects children from five major diseases were administered to children in refugee camps.
- September 2024 saw an increase in the number of new admissions among the refugee population into the supplementary feeding programmes for both Moderate and Severe Acute Malnutrition cases from 2,100 cases to almost 2,700 cases overall. This can be attributed both to the overall deteriorating health and nutrition status of already vulnerable refugees, delays in food distributions, lack of nutrition supplement supplies and lack of access to livelihoods.



A baby is weighed at a UNHCR-supported primary health centre in Ed Daein, East Darfur which delivers services to refugees, IDPs and host community. UNHCR

- In White Nile State, community health workers reached out to over 56,000 refugees in seven camps with health awareness messages on the prevention of conjunctivitis, diarrhoea, malaria, and the importance of immunization. To raise awareness in the community, UNHCR and its partners in Blue Nile State organised clean-up and vector control campaigns in the camps, passed key messages on malaria prevention and distributed mosquito nets.
- At health care facilities in refugee camps in Kassala, Gedaref and White Nile States, refugees and hosting communities can access mental health and psycho-social support services. In September, almost 400 patients requiring mental health support were seen for the first time, a slight increase from 300 reported in August. At the same time health providers noted a decrease in the number of follow up visits between August (1,000 cases) and September (880 cases). This trend is being further analysed to identify the reasons for the decrease.



LIVELIHOOD

- In Blue Nile State, close to 45 internally displaced people, refugee returnees and host community members were trained on the production of sanitary pads and received sewing machines and startup kits as seed investments. In Abu Garin, 70 forcibly displaced people were trained in briquette production using agricultural waste to promote the use of alternative fuels for cooking and reduce the pressures on the environment and deforestation.

NFI

NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

- During September, UNHCR and its partners distributed non-food items kits to some 37,000 internally displaced, refugee and host community households in Gedaref, Kassala, South Darfur and West Darfur States. Non-food items kits contain basic items such as a solar lamp, plastic sheet, and blankets intended to support recipients meet their most basic needs while in displacement. Overall, since the start of the year, some 77,000 households have received non-food items across Sudan.
- In late August, the authorities authorized the Adre border crossing from Chad into North Darfur for an initial period of three months to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Since the re-opening of the border crossing point, UNHCR has sent five trucks with over 1,300 non-food items kits for vulnerable forcibly displaced households to the Darfur region. These kits contain basic items such as plastic sheets, mosquito nets and cooking sets which enable forcibly displaced people replace lost items and establish themselves in displacement. UNHCR has so far airlifted over 4,000 NFI kits to Chad to maintain the cross-border operations for vulnerable people in western Sudan.



SHELTER

- Since the start of the year, UNHCR and its partners have reached close to 26,600 households comprising about 133,000 forcibly displaced people with shelter assistance in Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, South Darfur and West Darfur States. Shelter assistance comprises installation of tents, distribution of plastic sheets for shelter enhancement, cash for shelter, and partitioning of existing structures for more privacy.
- In September alone, some 4,500 refugee and IDP households benefitted from cash or in-kind emergency shelter interventions. In Kassala State, for example, UNHCR pitched over 300 tents and 4,200 refugee households received cash plastic sheets in Blue Nile and Gedaref States to strengthen their shelters.



An IDP woman displaced by conflict to Kassala State receives core relief items from UNHCR. UNHCR/M. Abdulmajid



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- UNHCR and its partners are providing safe drinking water in refugee camps accessible to surrounding hosting communities. An average of 17 litres per person per day is provided with significant variance across camps owing to the increased number of people accessing water since the conflict began. UNHCR and its partners are enhancing water production, supply and chlorination by installing pumps or extending pumping hours to meet these increased. For example, a borehole was rehabilitated at the Gallabat border reception centre, a solar pump and back-up generator installed, and the water supply network expanded to improve water provision for refugees and asylum-seekers arriving to Sudan. In Babikiri refugee camp, Gedaref State, an additional water storage tank was set up to improve water provision to host community members.
- To enhance household water treatment in response to the cholera outbreak, over 1,600 refugee households received water purification sachets in Kilo 26 camp, Kassala State. UNHCR's partners, health and hygiene volunteers are disseminating hygiene promotion messages in camps to encourage improved hygiene practices and mitigate the risks of water-borne and other communicable diseases following the rains.
- In White Nile State, UNHCR and its partners constructed 31 household latrines in Al Redis 1 refugee camp and in Gedaref State, 82 communal latrines were desludged and 17 damaged latrines were decommissioned in Tunadaybah camp. Unfortunately, only 58% of camps meet the minimum latrine sharing ratio for post emergency level resulting from higher needs and lack of land to construct new latrines.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As of September 2024

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