

Central African Republic (CAR) – SUDAN SITUATION

27 October – 2 November 2024



Sudanese refugees' biometric registration in Korsi (Birao) – ©UNHCR Stella Fatime

Highlights

The security situation in refugee-hosting areas of Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute Kotto, Ouaka, Mbomou, and Haute Mbomou has remained relatively stable during the reporting week, largely due to patrols by national security forces and the UN Peacekeeping Mission (MINUSCA).

On 28 October, armed men attacked the village of Krakoma, located 100 km from Ndélé along the Ouadda road in the Bamingui-Bangoran region. During the raid, they occupied the local school and abducted a woman and her six-month-old baby, demanding a ransom for their release. This incident forced the entire population of Krakoma to flee into nearby fields for safety.

On 23 October, two humanitarian workers from the NGO Première Urgence were robbed by armed men in the village of Zobossinda, located along the Ngarba road in Bamingui-Bangoran. The team was on their way to assess conditions for a planned mobile clinic for Sudanese refugees. This incident has significantly disrupted humanitarian access to Sudanese refugees living along the Ngarba road.

During the reporting week, 77 Sudanese refugees from 40 households arrived in Korsi, Birao, slightly decreasing from last week's 144 arrivals. The new arrivals received dry food rations from WFP, along with core relief items and emergency shelter kits from UNHCR. Plans are underway to provide cash assistance to the new arrivals through UNHCR's partner, NOURRIR.

WFP, in partnership with Ecobank and with support from UNHCR, CNR, NOURRIR, INTERSOS, and refugee committee members, is distributing cash in Korsi, Birao to supplement dry food assistance. The distribution, covering October and November 2024, aims to reach 6,400 individuals across 1,714 households.

Population Movements and Registration

During the reporting week, UNHCR and the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) conducted biometric registration for 103 Sudanese refugees in Korsi, Birao. Biometric registration is also in progress across Haut-Oubangui localities, including Rafai, Dembia, Ngoutifiro, Mbiro, and Pombolo. This process Ongoing hostilities in Sudan have triggered additional refugee flows into neighboring countries, including the Central African Republic (CAR). However, recent arrivals have slowed due to rising water levels along the Am Dafock-Birao route, which has complicated the movement of people and goods. As a result, Sudanese refugees are increasingly using an alternative route through the village of Amdoukoum, traveling via Goba and Matala.

Protection

During the reporting week, 17 protection monitoring missions were carried out in Vakaga prefecture to assess the security situation, document protection incidents and human rights violations, and survey the newly arrived refugee households in Korsi. These efforts aim to provide tailored psychological support where needed and to relay critical protection concerns to relevant authorities. Additionally, Project 21 (P21)¹ surveys were conducted for new refugee households in Korsi, complemented by outreach and coaching sessions for community relays.

UNHCR's partner INTERSOS reported 42 protection incidents in Vakaga during the reporting week, a slight decrease from the previous week's 46 incidents. The drop is possibly due to restricted civilian movement during the harvest season, poor road conditions, and flooding in the region. The majority of incidents involved property rights violations, including extortion, theft, and illegal taxation, followed by cases of gender-based violence and restrictions on freedom of movement and physical safety. Key areas of concern include Am Dafock, Sikikedé, and Korsi, with non-state armed groups identified as primary perpetrators. Local men, particularly those traveling between towns, are frequently targeted for robbery and harassment.

INTEROS also provided individual counseling to five individuals with specific needs (PWNs) who approached for assistance, bringing the total to 235 PWNs engaged with protection services in Bamingui-Bangoran. These include 68 individuals in Akroussoulbak, 88 in Ndélé, 28 in Kabo, and 51 in Kaga Bando. Among those assisted, 89 are single women facing severe hardships, followed closely by elderly women in similarly challenging circumstances. Protection teams continue to offer counseling and connect these individuals with essential resources and services.

Prevention against gender-based violence (GBV)

During the reporting week, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS held two awareness-raising sessions in Korsi focused on promoting girls' education and addressing the underlying factors of gender-based violence (GBV). These sessions were attended by 120 people, including 89 women and 31 girls.

While disclosures of GBV incidents in Korsi have slightly decreased, INTERSOS provided psychosocial support sessions in safe spaces, distributed dignity kits, conducted referrals for medical care, and followed up on previous survivors receiving ongoing support.

The Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP) program to prevent violence against women and girls continued in Birao, with the establishment of women's discussion groups in both the host community and Korsi. EMAP aims to engage men as allies in preventing violence against women and girls, fostering understanding and accountability within communities.

In Bamingui-Bangoran, INTERSOS facilitated four group sessions on GBV awareness and response, involving 108 participants, including 29 women from the host community. Additionally, five focus group discussions –three with refugees and two with local community members –explored the root causes of forced and early marriage, with participants identifying gaps in parental support and prevailing cultural norms as key influencing factors.

Child protection

During the reporting week, 96 children, including recent arrivals, participated in recreational and psychosocial activities at the child-friendly space in Korsi. Although attendance was slightly lower than the previous week, new group therapy sessions were introduced to encourage positive interaction and build social connections among the children.

UNHCR and its partners also identified adolescent girls who need additional support due to the ongoing crisis. In response, 150 of the planned 300 menstrual kits have been prepared for distribution, aiming to ensure dignity and meet their specific needs.

Additionally, GBV risk-reduction measures have been put in place within learning spaces to create safer environments and provide supportive resources for those at risk.

¹ Project 21, co-led by UNHCR, is a regional protection monitoring tool that collects data and analyzes protection risks across West and Central Africa. In the CAR, P21 tools have been adapted to help integrate local protection monitoring data into a broader regional database. This approach allows for more comprehensive insights into protection gaps and informs targeted interventions.

Water, Shelter, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

The number of emergency latrines and showers remains unchanged, with each latrine serving 62 people and each shower used by 58 people, still below the recommended standard during emergencies.

The daily drinking water supply has dropped further, from 110,000 to 100,000 litres, due to a borehole breakdown and a generator malfunction at another borehole. This brings the average water provision to 7 litres per person per day for the 14,931 people in Korsi – well below the Sphere standard of 20 litres per person per day.

UNHCR's partner, NOURRIR, along with community members, continues to promote sanitation and hygiene in Korsi. The team cleaned the washing area and chlorinated the water supply to ensure its safety. Hygiene promoters conducted outreach sessions, reaching 2,621 people from 1,026 households to encourage safe hygiene practices.

In response to the risk of stagnant water, drainage channels are being constructed on-site. So far, 1,200 meters of drainage have been completed. A team of 264 refugees is engaged in this effort, working under the supervision of NOURRIR, National Reflection Committee (CNR), and UNCHR teams to improve overall site conditions.

Education

To start the 2024-2025 school year, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS conducted four awareness sessions in Korsi and surrounding host communities, reaching 620 people and promoting the importance of enrolling children in school. Attendance increased by 98 people (0.65 per cent) during the reporting week, largely due to the efforts of community relays. However, some parents are still keeping children at home to assist with fieldwork, so outreach efforts will continue through local authorities, community relays, and announcements in churches and mosques.

In Korsi, school infrastructure improvements are underway, with 135 concrete benches completed out of a planned 216 across the two school buildings for 2024.

Meanwhile, in Ndélé, classes resumed for 766 school-age Sudanese refugee children, helping to restore a sense of normalcy and safety for them.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

The construction of 220 semi-durable shelters in Birao is progressing, with 78 units initiated so far – 30 of which are fully completed and 40 currently under construction. To support this effort, UNHCR assisted its partner NOURRIR in transporting 58,338 bricks (263 tonnes).

Health and Nutrition

This week, NOURRIR and International Medical Corps (IMC) medical teams, under the supervision of WHO and the Vakaga Health District, conducted 468 consultations in Korsi. Of these, 432 (92 per cent) were for refugees and 36 (8 per cent) for host community members. Among the refugee patients, 55 (12 per cent) were new arrivals, and 23 per cent of all consultations were for young children aged 0-59 months. The most common health issues were malaria (236 cases, 51 per cent), acute respiratory infections (53 cases, 12 per cent), and intestinal parasitosis (40 cases, 9 per cent). All patients received outpatient care. In 2024, a total of 32,069 consultations have been provided, with 9 per cent serving the host community.

In Korsi, 23 Sudanese women received antenatal consultations during the reporting week, bringing the annual total to 1,219. Additionally, there were 7 postnatal consultations, totaling 253 for the year. 31 women had gynecological consultations, reaching 1,644 for the year, and 7 received family planning services, totaling 246 for 2024. One baby was delivered during the reporting week, bringing the annual total to 126 deliveries and 129 newborns.

During the reporting week, 12 patients were referred from Korsi to Birao District Hospital, adding to the 646 referrals made so far in 2024. No deaths were reported.

In terms of nutrition, four cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and three cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were identified in children aged 6 to 59 months. In 2024, 1,230 children have been treated for MAM, 172 for SAM, and 844 children have participated in malnutrition prevention programs. In total, 2,246 children aged 0-59 months have received treatment for malnutrition.



Vaccination efforts continued, with 12 pregnant women receiving the anti-tetanus vaccine and five children receiving multi-antigen vaccines, including one for measles. For 2024, 557 children have received multi-antigen vaccines, with 191 vaccinated against measles, and 484 pregnant women have received the anti-tetanus vaccine as part of routine immunization.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

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

- On 07 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 02 November, the total funding for the CAR remained at some USD 11.4 million or **25%** 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 02 November, the total available funding for the appeal is **29%** of the funding requirements.

Resources

- UNHCR dashboard: [Sudan Situation: One year on](#)
- Data story: [Sudan: One year of spiralling conflict and displacement](#)
- [End of Year Report Sudan Regional RRP 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 Global Focus Sudan Operation page](#)
- [UNHCR Sudan Emergency website](#)

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