

SUDAN SITUATION

29 December 2024 – 4 January 2025

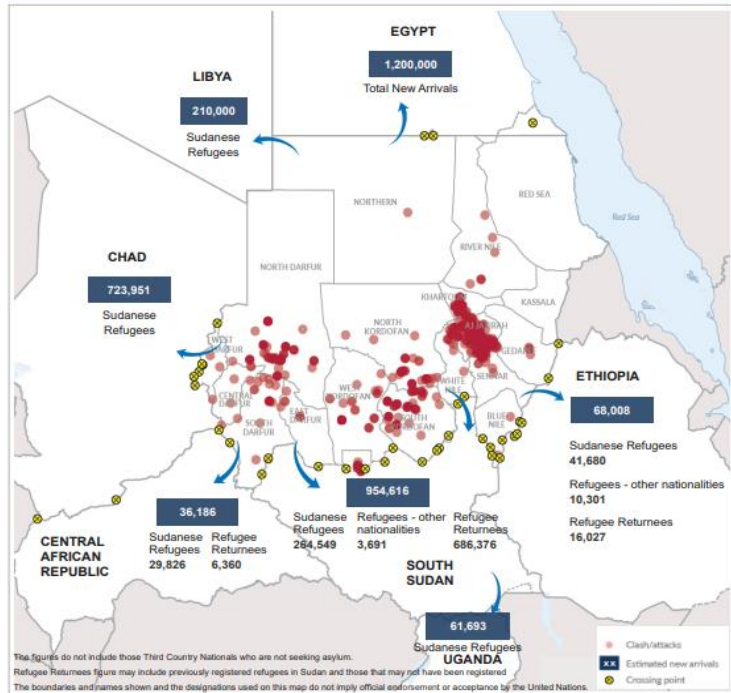
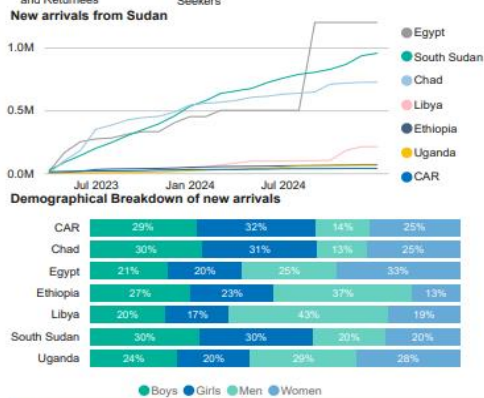


Pupils from Sudan attend outdoor classes at the Dar es Salaam school in the Goz Amir refugee camp, Chad, near the Sudan border, which hosts refugees fleeing conflict. © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Highlights

- In Sudan, humanitarian access has improved in parts of White Nile State, allowing aid organizations to resume critical activities, including food distribution and border monitoring, which were previously halted due to clashes during the month of December.
- In South Sudan, UNHCR's [Rapid Intention Survey](#) revealed that while the majority of refugees and returnees who arrived in the last month prefer to stay in South Sudan, barriers to movement, including family reunification and mobility challenges, persist. Many Sudanese refugees indicated an intention to stay in border areas for now and are more likely to return to Sudan than South Sudanese returnees in the short term. Renk has seen a decrease in daily new arrivals, with 1,100 individuals arriving compared to a surge in December. However, WASH gaps continue in communities hosting refugees, as resources remain insufficient to meet the needs of the growing population.
- In Chad, discussions are underway to secure 100 hectares of land for the World Bank-funded HAGUINA project, aimed at empowering refugees and indigenous communities in agriculture and livestock production. The project, supervised by WFP, UNHCR, the government of Chad, and other partners, aims to support 800 beneficiaries (400 refugees and 400 indigenous people). In addition, the initiative aims to rehabilitate 100,000 hectares of agricultural and pastoral land over five years, benefiting 500,000 farmers and herders from food-insecure refugees and host communities.
- In Libya, over 38,600 Sudanese refugees have been registered since April 2023, with ongoing challenges in issuing Security Registration Cards due to limited capacity in Benghazi. WASH infrastructure in eastern Libya is overstretched, raising the risk of disease outbreaks, and urgent improvements in water and latrine access are needed.

There are now 12.3 million forcibly displaced due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan since April 2023, including 8.8 million internally and 3.5 million in neighbouring countries. Sudan and neighbouring countries were already hosting large refugee populations before this new emergency and require additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance, including for those who have been secondarily displaced within Sudan. Urgent needs include water, food, shelter, health, and core relief items. The current priority activities are the registration of new arrivals, relocation away from border areas, identification of especially vulnerable families and persons with specific needs, and putting mechanisms in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and ensure alternative care services for unaccompanied refugee children.



Sources: UNHCR & Government | Contact: dimaehag@unhcr.org

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Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- The reporting week saw ongoing hostilities in multiple states across Sudan, including Khartoum, Al Jazirah, Sennar, River Nile, Darfur, Kassala, Gedaref, and North Kordofan. The conflict has led to significant civilian casualties, widespread displacement, and damage to infrastructure, worsening the humanitarian situation.
- In White Nile State, three refugee camps (Alagaya, Dabat Bosin, and Alganaa) to which access had been restricted during the conflict escalation in early December, have recently become accessible to humanitarian organizations. During the reporting period, general food distribution was underway in these camps, providing refugees with lentils, sorghum, salt, and oil. Immigration officials and the Commission of Refugees (COR) have also resumed border monitoring activities at the Joda border crossing point with South Sudan after being absent for three weeks.
- Flooding which occurred two weeks ago in White Nile State affected four out of the nine localities and impacted over 100,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as host communities. Fortunately, the situation has now stabilized. In the Alredis1 and Jouri refugee camps, community volunteers are collaborating with partners to construct dikes around the areas affected by the flood.
- In River Nile State, UNHCR in collaboration with the Humanitarian Aid Commission and the State Ministry of Social Welfare, conducted a mapping of IDP gathering sites across four administrative units in the Al Damar locality. More than 6,530 households, comprising a total of 32,620 individuals from Al Jazirah, Khartoum, and Sennar States, are currently residing in the gathering sites at Al Madina, Al Atbarawi, Al Zaidab, and Al Hura.

Population Movements and Registration

During the reporting week, UNHCR and the Commission for Refugees (COR) received 139 individuals from Ethiopia and Eritrea who were seeking asylum in Kassala State. In total, over 530 refugees and

asylum-seekers, primarily from Eritrea, South Sudan, and Ethiopia, were registered in Kassala, Khartoum, Blue Nile, and Red Sea States over the past week.

Additionally, nearly 380 refugees in Gedaref, Khartoum, and the Red Sea States received identity documents, including photo slips.

In River Nile State, the State Ministry of Social Welfare, in coordination with the Zakat Chamber, facilitated the voluntary return of 1,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Atbara to their original areas in Sennar town, Al Dinder, Sinja, and Al Sooki in Sennar State.

In Blue Nile State, the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) reported the spontaneous return of approximately 5,000 IDPs from Sennar State since November 2024.

Protection

The protection monitoring in the Darfur States, conducted by UNHCR's partners, community networks, and leaders, indicates a worsening protection environment. Incidents of arbitrary arrests, assaults, tribal tensions, and criminal activities have risen alongside the escalation of conflicts in the region.

In the River Nile State, UNHCR's partner distributed assistive devices, including wheelchairs, canes for the visually impaired, walking aids, and medical bed mattresses, to 62 vulnerable IDPs and members of host communities in the Ad Damar and Atbara localities.

In White Nile State, UNHCR's partner provided medical, nutritional, and protection assistance to 17 individuals with specific needs through referral services.

In South Darfur State, UNHCR's partner provided supplementary food items, such as rice, lentils, cooking oil, sugar, and wheat flour, to 19 vulnerable IDPs as part of individual protection assistance. Additionally, 265 refugees residing in the Beliel, Otash, Derieg, and Kalma IDP camps received in-kind assistance, including dates, sugar, and soap bars, as part of individual protection support.

Legal

During the reporting period, UNHCR's partner conducted legal awareness sessions and provided counseling to approximately 18 IDPs regarding the laws and regulations that apply to displaced individuals in the River Nile State.

In the White Nile State, UNHCR's partner, in collaboration with a paralegal committee, organized legal awareness-raising sessions that emphasized the civilian nature of asylum. These sessions reached over 600 refugees across all camps.

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

In White Nile State, UNHCR's partner, along with community volunteers, organized awareness-raising sessions on GBV, reaching over 2,650 individuals and informing them about the existing referral mechanisms available in the Alkashafa, Jouri, Alrdays2, Khouralwaral, and Umsangour refugee camps.

Child Protection

In White Nile State, UNHCR, along with its partners, conducted home visits to over 500 unaccompanied and separated children who are under alternative care arrangements within the refugee camps. During these visits, the team provided counseling and raised awareness about child protection issues in the camps.

In the reporting week, approximately 40 refugee children at risk underwent best interest determination procedures facilitated by UNHCR's partner. These children were then referred to receive essential assistance, including health services, psychosocial support, nutrition, food, and shelter.

Health and Nutrition

During the reporting period, nearly 800 outpatient consultations were conducted in primary healthcare facilities located in the refugee camps of Blue Nile and White Nile States. In the White Nile State, there were 101 consultations focused on mental health and psychosocial support within the camps. Additionally,

UNHCR's partner referred over 100 IDPs from the Kosti, Rabak, and El Dowaim communities to the Kosti Trauma Center for psychosocial counseling.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

In White Nile State, UNHCR's partners distributed non-food items (NFIs) such as blankets, solar lanterns, kitchen sets, and mats to 6,000 refugees residing in camps.

In Blue Nile State, over 250 vulnerable IDPs in the Damazine locality received NFI kits that included sleeping mats, plastic buckets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, and clothing during the reporting period. Additionally, more than 5,500 vulnerable IDPs received clothing support from UNHCR.

In South Darfur State, during the reporting week, 1,000 vulnerable South Sudanese refugees and members of host communities in the Abu Jarah settlement received NFI kits consisting of blankets, plastic sheets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, mats, and solar lamps.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Blue Nile State, UNHCR's partner completed drainage construction in Camp 6 as part of flood preparedness and mitigation measures.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Highlights

- The security situation in the areas hosting Sudanese refugees remains unstable. In Bria, located in the Haute Kotto prefecture, ongoing tensions and the potential for worsening security have led to the implementation of preventive measures. Joint patrols are being conducted by the National Security Forces (FACA) and the MINUSCA forces to address these concerns.

Population Movements and Registration

During the reporting week, eight households totalling 18 individuals arrived in Korsi (Birao), a decrease from the previous week, which saw 24 families with a total of 50 individuals. The overall population in Korsi now stands at 14,683 people across 6,350 households.

UNHCR issued documentation cards to 152 Sudanese refugees living in Sam-Ouandja during the reporting week, contributing to a total of 900 cards distributed to the Sudanese community in that area.

In Sam-Ouandja, Bria, and Ippy, UNHCR and the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) have biometrically registered 2,974 Sudanese refugees from 976 households. This registration includes 2,407 individuals (751 households) in Ouandja-Kotto, 270 individuals (94 households) in Bria, and 297 individuals (133 households) in Ippy.

Additionally, the CNR and UNHCR biometrically registered 413 refugees from 153 families in Korsi during the reporting week. Among them, 101 individuals with specific needs were identified, including unaccompanied and separated children, women at risk, the elderly, people with disabilities, and single parents.

Protection

INTERSOS reported 10 protection incidents across Vakaga prefecture during the reporting week, a decrease from the 24 incidents reported the previous week. The main incidents involved property rights violations, with non-state armed groups as primary perpetrators. Local men, though outnumbered by refugees, remain the most targeted. The most affected localities were Birao, Am Dafock, and Terfel, with incidents often linked to opportunistic banditry, highlighting the urgent need for strengthened protection measures for both host and refugee communities.

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

The Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP) programme engaged 20 participants during the reporting week, evenly split between the refugee and host communities in Korsi and Birao. However, all participants were women, highlighting the need to adapt activities to encourage men's participation.

Involving men is essential to ensure an inclusive approach to violence prevention, amplify prevention messages, and promote collective behavioral change.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

During the reporting week in Korsi, 11 new emergency latrines and showers were built, bringing the total to 261 latrines and 264 showers. This reduced the average number of people per latrine from 63 to 60, which remains above the Sphere standard of 20 people per latrine. Similarly, the ratio of 57 people per shower is still higher than the recommended best practices.

The water supply in Korsi remains at 85,000 liters/day, providing 5.5 liters per person/day—below the Sphere standard of 15 liters per person per day. Refugees in the area have started collecting water from nearby host community water points to supplement their needs.

UNICEF's partner, Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH), completed the construction of two metal water towers in Korsi, while All For Peace And Dignity (APAD), UN Women's partner, launched the installation of a solar borehole to enhance water supply. TGH also distributed 150 sanitation kits, including trash bins, to refugee committees, CNR, and UNHCR to improve sanitation in Korsi.

Hygiene teams in Korsi cleaned areas around water points and conducted awareness campaigns, reaching 3,001 people (2,915 families). Topics include fire prevention, latrine hygiene, dangers of open defecation, jerry can cleaning, and protecting children from contaminated water.

Shelter and Non-Food Items

The construction of 220 semi-durable shelters in Korsi is ongoing, with 95 shelters completed so far. However, the onset of the dry season has introduced challenges in accessing sufficient water for construction activities.

Additionally, 694 Sudanese refugees (275 families) in Korsi received second-hand clothing donations during the reporting week, addressing immediate clothing needs within the community.

Health and Nutrition

From 1 to 3 January 2025, medical teams from the Central African Society for International Solidarity (CSSI) and International Medical Corps (IMC), under the coordination of the Vakaga Health District, conducted 299 curative consultations in Korsi. Of these, 250 (83.6 per cent) were for refugees, including 63 new arrivals (21 per cent), and 49 (16.4 per cent) for the host population. Among the patients, 99 children aged 0–59 months (33.1 per cent), including 44 girls and 45 boys, received treatment.

The leading causes of illness were malaria (102 cases, 40 per cent), acute respiratory infections (60 cases, 20 per cent), and intestinal parasitosis (51 cases, 17 per cent). All patients received outpatient care.

In the same period, 18 forcibly displaced women received prenatal consultations, one postnatal consultation was conducted, and 16 women accessed gynecological consultations. Five women benefited from family planning services, and one baby was delivered. Additionally, four patients were referred to Birao District Hospital for further care.

During the first week of January, 99 children aged 6–59 months were screened for malnutrition, resulting in the identification and treatment of two cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and one case of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Six pregnant women received tetanus vaccines, and three children were vaccinated with multi-antigen vaccines.

CHAD

Highlights

- On 31 December, the official demarcation of all refugee sites in Sila Province began. This effort, involving the Chadian Planning and Urban Development department, traditional leaders, the National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees (CNARR),

and UNHCR, aims to create a cadastral plan and accurately document site boundaries to prevent potential conflicts.

- In Chad, discussions are underway to secure 100 hectares of land for the World Bank-funded HAGUINA project, aimed at empowering refugees and indigenous communities in agriculture and livestock production. The project, supervised by WFP, UNHCR, the government of Chad, and other partners, aims to support 800 beneficiaries (400 refugees and 400 indigenous people). In addition, the initiative aims to rehabilitate 100,000 hectares of agricultural and pastoral land over five years, benefiting 500,000 farmers and herders from food-insecure refugees and host communities.
- In preparation for 2025, newly selected partners have started arriving at their assigned locations. UNHCR has transferred relevant assets, and connections are being established with refugee leaders.

Population Movements and Registration

From 23 December to 5 January, 1,311 Sudanese refugees arrived in Chad. UNHCR, CNARR, and the Chadian Red Cross continue to monitor the border, particularly in Ennedi East Province, which has seen a surge in arrivals over the past three weeks.

Since the start of the Sudan crisis, 723,951 refugees have been recorded in Chad, including 238,170 in 2024. Continued violence in Sudan is projected to force up to 250,000 additional refugees to flee to Chad in 2025.

Relocation

A total of 904 individuals (240 households) were relocated from border areas, such as Birak and Adré, to consolidated refugee sites in Dougui and Abougoudam (Ouaddaï Province), as well as Koursigué (Wadi-Fira Province).

Protection

Child protection

On 30 December 2024, the Ouaddaï Child Protection Sub-Working Group convened following a mission from the Ministry of Women and Early Childhood. The mission, comprising the ministry's Director and a sociologist consultant, met with key partners (UNHCR, UNICEF, HIAS, CRT, MSF, SOSVET, and JRS) to initiate regional consultations with child protection actors. The goal was to develop national guidelines for creating and managing child-friendly spaces. Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for these spaces were shared to integrate relevant inputs into the final guidelines.

Meanwhile, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) continued awareness-raising activities on civil documentation in the Aboutengué and Métché refugee sites. During the week, 250 individuals were informed about procedures for obtaining civil status documents, including birth certificates. Additionally, 37 parents received guidance on accessing state-issued documents for their children.

Community-based protection

During the reporting week, efforts to finalize accountability mechanism tools continued, alongside mapping these mechanisms in collaboration with new partners. A briefing was held with the new partners to strengthen accountability to the affected population, build robust partnerships with the communities served, and mitigate potential misunderstandings.

Health and Nutrition

The Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA) has resumed health activities at the Djabal and Goz-Amir health centres, with UNHCR providing all necessary equipment, including vehicles, to support operations.

During the reporting week, 124 children received vaccinations covering all antigens, and 34 children were specifically vaccinated against measles. The children were vaccinated at the four refugee sites in Sila Province: Djabal, Goz-Amir, Zabout, and Kerfi.

Livelihoods, Energy, and Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

On 27 December 2024, WFP's cash assistance benefited 12,277 refugees at the Zabout refugee site, distributing a total of 804,192,000 XAF (approximately 1,263,008 USD). Starting on 28 December, WFP

extended cash assistance to refugees at the Gaga and Bredjine sites, supporting 10,538 individuals in Gaga and 14,531 in Bredjine.

In Dougui, the Association des Témoins d'Urgences et des Actions de Développement (ATURAD) provided 42,000 XAF (approximately 66 USD) to each of the 80 vulnerable households identified and plans to continue this assistance for two months. The organization is also preparing additional activities focused on nutrition, income generation, and social cohesion at the site.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

In the Amnabak refugee site, shelter construction is progressing well, with 415 out of 600 planned shelters completed and 268 shelters allocated to beneficiaries.

At the Arkoum and Alacha refugee sites, 1,697 refugees with specific needs received core relief items, including buckets, mosquito nets, and jerrycans.

The INDITEX clothing distribution continued in Alacha, with 23,124 clothing items distributed, benefiting 6,326 individuals from 1,567 households.

In Dougui, the Agence de Développement Economique et Social (ADES) started the construction of 1,000 new shelters to support the growing needs of the refugee population.

EGYPT

Highlights

- For 2025, UNHCR has established new partnerships to enhance support for refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt. Mersal Foundation will manage primary healthcare services in Greater Cairo, including providing medications for chronic conditions. Plan International will lead livelihood initiatives in Alexandria and along the North Coast, while Terre des Hommes (TdH) will focus on community empowerment, psychological support, and special needs. In Greater Cairo, livelihood programmes will transition to the management of Life Makers and Etijah. UNHCR has also ensured the continuity of cash assistance distribution through post offices and updated the procedures for residency appointments. A multilingual social media campaign, designed to inform refugees and asylum seekers about their access to these new partnerships, reached over 1.2 million views on UNHCR's Arabic page. Additionally, engagement on other language pages increased by 170.9 per cent compared to November 2024.
- As winter approaches and economic challenges continue, UNHCR is assisting 66,240 vulnerable families, totaling 227,584 people, to help them stay warm and meet essential needs such as electricity, clothing, blankets, and heaters. This one-time winter cash assistance is aimed at families in the greatest need, with new arrivals receiving nearly 95 per cent of the basic winter cost, while long-term beneficiaries receive up to 84.5 per cent. A majority of the recipients are female-headed households, accounting for 63 per cent, while 43 per cent are Sudanese new arrivals. Additionally, UNHCR is prioritizing support for 1,878 families referred by its teams who face higher risks.

Population Movements and Registration

As of 2 January, UNHCR in Egypt has provided registration appointments to 855,122 individuals who have been forced to flee Sudan since the conflict began in April 2023. Of these, UNHCR has registered 538,788 people for assistance and protection, which accounts for 62 per cent of those who sought support. The vast majority of those newly registered are Sudanese nationals (96 per cent), followed by Eritreans (2 per cent) and South Sudanese (2 per cent).

Protection

Community-based protection

In the past week, a total of 2,655 refugees and asylum-seekers, including new arrivals from Sudan, received information about available services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints from outreach community workers at UNHCR's Reception Centre in 6th of October City, Greater Cairo. Additionally, during the same period, UNHCR's partner, Terre des Hommes (TdH), provided

immediate basic psychosocial support to 3,804 individuals. Of these, 14 cases were referred for in-depth psychosocial assessment, and 152 cases were fast-tracked for further urgent assistance.

Legal and physical protection

During the reporting period, 46 individuals received legal counseling through UNHCR and its partners. This included 30 Sudanese who sought legal aid for issues such as early and late birth registration, filing legal reports, divorce, custody, and legal representation.

Infoline

UNHCR's Infoline received a total of 6,349 calls during the reporting week, averaging 1,587 calls per day. Of these calls, 89 per cent came from Greater Cairo, which includes Giza, 6th October City, and Sharkia. Since the beginning of the crisis, the Infoline has assisted over 583,867 new arrivals from Sudan.

Cash Assistance

As of 4 January, UNHCR has conducted vulnerability assessments for a total of 128,864 newly arrived Sudanese individuals since the onset of the crisis.

In Aswan, UNHCR Egypt has assessed 14,521 individuals for Emergency Cash Assistance (ECA) since the beginning of the crisis, with 73 per cent being eligible. Across the country, 99,162 newly arrived individuals have been identified as eligible for a one-time ECA, and 83 per cent of these individuals have successfully received assistance since the start of the crisis.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- During the reporting week, the security situation in the Amhara region remained volatile but allowed humanitarian operations to continue. The reopening of the Gondar-Metema highway for public transport improved access. However, the risk of extortion and harassment targeting UN convoys and public transport remains a concern.
- The Galabat-Metema border point has been open since 22 October; however, government services such as immigration, visas, and customs have not yet resumed due to damage caused by vandalism in offices three months ago. Movements across the border have been reported in both directions.
- In the Benishangul Gumuz region, the security situation in Kurmuk Transit Centre, Ura, and Sherkole refugee sites remains calm and stable.

Population Movement and Registration

In the Benishangul Gumuz region, 247 individuals from 87 households underwent household-level registration. Among them, 58 individuals entered through the Gizen entry point, and 20 individuals entered through the Abrahamo entry point. The cumulative total of individuals registered at the household level has now reached 29,351 since 15 April 2023.

In the Amhara region, household-level registration is currently on hold due to the security situation at the Metema entry point. The cumulative total for household-level registration remains at 21,772 since the start of the conflict.

Relocation

In the Benishangul Gumuz region, UNHCR, in coordination with Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS) and other partners, relocated 89 individuals from 37 households from Kurmuk Transit Centre (TC) to the Ura refugee site. Additionally, 122 individuals from 43 households spontaneously relocated during the reporting week. This brings the total number of refugees relocated to 9,858 individuals from 3,601 households.

In the Amhara region, UNHCR, in coordination with RRS and other partners, exceptionally relocated 16 students registered for secondary school and their 54 family members from Metema TC to Afitit refugee site to facilitate their enrolment in school.

Protection

In the Amhara region, UNHCR conducted an awareness session on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and fraud during the monthly session organized by Plan International Ethiopia (PIE) on child protection and access to education. The session was attended by teachers, Refugee Central Committee (RCC) members, the child protection committee, the parent-student-teacher association, social workers, and community representatives.

At the Aftit refugee site, UNHCR Protection provided counseling to 13 individuals and received various complaints from refugees. Reported incidents included theft, difficulties in obtaining birth certificates for newborns, challenges with registration for new arrivals, and cases of stress. UNHCR provided recommendations and support, and referred individuals in need of further assistance to the appropriate services.

In the Benishangul Gumuz region, protection counseling was provided at both the Kurmuk TC and Ura refugee settlement.

Prevention against gender-based violence (GBV)

In the Amhara region, UNHCR's partners, Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC) and Medical Teams International (MTI), provided GBV services at the Aftit refugee site. Furthermore, MTI provided cash support to at-risk women and girls and survivors of GBV.

The protection desk also provided essential information and psychosocial support during the reporting week. Survivors of GBV and women at risk continued to receive support, and their recovery is being closely monitored. Dignity kits were distributed to women at risk and GBV survivors in Aftit settlement. Additionally, a service mapping exercise was completed to establish a comprehensive referral pathway system for the refugee site.

DICAC carried out community outreach to raise awareness about GBV and PSEA. It also organized recreation sessions with women and girls to promote protection, empowerment, and reduce the risk of gender-based violence. A GBV awareness session was held with working women to enhance understanding of GBV prevention, response, disclosure, referral pathways, PSEA, and community compliance mechanisms.

Child Protection

In Aftit, Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) provided Child Protection services through the Child-Friendly Space (CFS), which organized a range of indoor activities to foster social interaction, creativity, and physical well-being, engaging 153 children. Additionally, PIE social workers conducted follow-up visits and home-to-home outreach for children under case management, as well as for others, providing psychosocial support and ensuring their overall well-being. Community social workers identified and registered 4 new unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). PIE also held a monthly session on child protection and access to education, with 45 participants, including incentive workers, the child protection committee, RCC members, teachers, and the parent-teacher association.

At the Ura refugee site, PIE continued the identification, verification, and registration of UASC and other vulnerable children (OVC). A total of 9 separated children and OVC were registered. A rapid Best Interest Assessment (BIA) was initiated and completed for the children at Ura Refugee Site. The BIA assesses the best interests of the child and ensures appropriate child protection services. Additionally, PIE social workers reached more than 32 households through community outreach visits to identify child protection cases. During the reporting period, a total of 156 children participated in the indoor and outdoor activities at the CFS in Ura and Kurmuk Transit Center.

Health and Nutrition

In Metema Transit Centre (TC) and Aftit settlement, MTI and WHO's Mobile Health and Nutrition Team (MHNT) provided Outpatient Department (OPD) consultations. MTI conducted OPD consultations for 367 refugees and host community members in Aftit, while 9 pregnant women received Tetanus-diphtheria (TD) vaccinations. In Metema TC, MHNT provided OPD consultations for 279 refugees. The most prevalent diseases include upper respiratory tract infections, pneumonia, acute watery diarrhoea, urinary tract infections, malaria, acute febrile illness, and intestinal worms/infections.

Nutrition screenings were also conducted for children and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) by MTI and PIE in Aftit refugee site, and by MHNT in Metema TC. In Aftit, PIE and MTI identified 21 children and 47 PLWs with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), who were referred to the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program. At Metema TC, 21 children were screened for malnutrition, with 2 identified cases of MAM, while 7 PLWs were screened, with no cases of MAM identified.

At the Aftit Health Center, a psychiatric nurse from MTI conducted 17 Mental Health and Psychosocial Support consultations. At Metema TC, the mobile health and nutrition team screened 66 individuals for mental health concerns, identifying 4 new cases, and 45 individuals received psychoeducation.

During the reporting period, menstrual hygiene management kits were distributed at Metema TC, benefiting 575 women and girls of reproductive age.

In the Benishangul Gumuz region, UNHCR's partner MTI provided OPD consultations for 799 refugees and host community members (including 202 children under five) at the Ura refugee site and Kurmuk TC. The most prevalent diseases in the region include upper respiratory tract infections, watery diarrhoea, lower respiratory tract infections, and malaria. Additionally, 26 pregnant mothers received antenatal care follow-up, and 3 labouring mothers received service delivery at the health post.

Nutrition screening was conducted by UNHCR's partner GOAL for 122 children under 5 and 28 PLWs. Of these, 3 children were identified with MAM and admitted to the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme.

Education

In Aftit, the teaching and learning process continues for 811 primary school refugee students and 535 host community children. During the reporting period, 60 new students were enrolled. A total of 61 refugee incentive teachers and 19 national teachers were assigned to facilitate the teaching and learning process at Aftit Primary School. On 31 December, a parent-teacher meeting was held to present the overall progress report, school performance evaluations, children's well-being assessments, and community involvement.

Additionally, 277 refugee students regularly attend secondary education at Gende Wuha/Metema host community secondary school. EOC-DICAC organized orientation sessions for newly relocated students at Metema Secondary School to help them transition smoothly from the transit center to Aftit Refugee Settlement. UNHCR partner DICAC continues to provide buses for students attending Gende Wuha Secondary School.

In Ura, the teaching and learning process is ongoing at the Akuda-Tumet Primary School, facilitated by PIE for 2,327 students from both the refugee and host communities. Among these, 1,352 are refugee students (734 male and 618 female). Early Childhood Care and Development is provided for children aged 4-6 years at the CFS at the Ura refugee site.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In the Amhara region, Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) provided 87,000 liters of chlorinated water per day for refugees in Metema TC and Aftit Settlement. This brings the average water provision to 15.3 l/p/d (liters per person per day) for refugees at the TC and 10.36 l/p/d for those in Aftit, marking an increase of 24,852 liters compared to the previous week's average provision of 62,148 liters, although still below the emergency standard in Aftit. This increase is attributed to maintaining the planned three trips per day. IHS has also resumed borehole drilling in Aftit, reaching a depth of 141 meters, and the second shallow well drilling at Metema TC has reached 35 meters. Drilling is expected to be completed by the end of February 2025.

In the Benishangul Gumuz region, UNHCR's partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) installed an additional water point, bringing the total number of water distribution points to 16. A total of 180,000 liters of water per day was distributed to refugees in Ura, averaging the emergency standard of 15 l/p/d. Additionally, IRC constructed 10 shared household latrines, bringing the total to 184 completed blocks, with the capacity to serve approximately 14,720 individuals.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

During the reporting period, 21 shelters were completed and handed over to beneficiaries at the Ura refugee site, bringing the total number of completed and handed-over shelters there to 1,922. Shelter upgrading activities are also ongoing, with 125 selected beneficiaries having received bamboo grass and other construction materials.

In Aftit, 16 completed shelter units have been handed over to beneficiaries relocated from Metema TC. To date, a total of 490 shelters have been completed and handed over, bringing the total number of shelters in Aftit to 580. Additionally, the construction of 13 communal hangars has been completed.

LIBYA

Highlights

- The continued arrival of Sudanese refugees has significantly strained health, WASH, shelter, and food systems in eastern Libya. Overstretched WASH infrastructure has raised the risk of disease outbreaks, while immediate improvements in water and latrine access are urgently required.
- UNHCR completed an assessment of the Al-Selaa Warehouse camp in Ajdabiya, hosting 120 Sudanese families (approximately 600 refugees). Refugees face significant challenges, including limited access to healthcare, missing documentation, and inadequate financial resources. Recommendations include urgent provision of medical beds, wheelchairs, medications, and non-food items.
- As of 6 January, UNHCR has registered 38,679 Sudanese refugees who arrived in Libya since April 2023. In Benghazi, the high cost and limited capacity for issuing Security Registration Cards remain a challenge.

Population Movement and Registration

As of 6 January, 38,679 Sudanese refugees who arrived in Libya since April 2023 have been registered with UNHCR at its registration center in Tripoli.

In Benghazi, the process of issuing Security Registration Cards remains challenging. While these cards are issued for free in Alkufra, Sudanese refugees unable to obtain them must pay LYD 501 (approximately USD 100) in Benghazi. The authorities in Benghazi can process up to 150 cards per day, forcing individuals to arrive very early, often before sunrise, to secure a spot in the queue.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

UNHCR completed an assessment of the living conditions and protection needs at the Al-Selaa Warehouse camp in Ajdabiya, located 165 km southeast of Benghazi. This collective shelter, established by military authorities in early December 2024 in response to floods, currently hosts 120 Sudanese families (approximately 600 refugees), including pregnant women, infants, and individuals with disabilities. From 21 to 23 December, UNHCR's partner, LibAid, distributed non-food items to 80 Sudanese families. Refugees face significant challenges, including a lack of financial resources, missing documentation, and limited access to education and healthcare. Recommendations for improving conditions include addressing urgent needs for medical beds, wheelchairs, essential medications, and additional non-food items.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The eastern part of the country is facing growing demands due to the continuous arrival of Sudanese refugees. Urgent needs include health services, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), cash assistance, food, and shelter. Many refugees are in poor health and require immediate nutritional support.

The overstretched WASH infrastructure significantly increases the risk of disease outbreaks, necessitating urgent improvements in access to water and latrines. Local authorities are providing substantial support, including access to public health services and educational opportunities. However, further assistance is needed for local communities, particularly as Sudanese refugees increasingly move to coastal cities. In addition, tailored protection assistance is urgently required for female-headed households, addressing their specific vulnerabilities and ensuring their safety and well-being.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- UNHCR is working with government and community stakeholders to mediate host community grievances against UNHCR and implementing partners, which temporarily disrupted services in Gorom Refugee Settlement. Essential services, including health, food, and registration, have resumed as of 5 January, but protection activities remain on hold. The grievances center on perceived insufficient support to the host community, despite shared access to education, health, and WASH services, including a new secondary school set to open this year.
- UNHCR surveyed 808 households from over 80,000 new arrivals since late November due to intensified fighting in Sudan's Blue Nile, White Nile, and Sennar States. The survey found that 58 per cent of new arrivals prefer to stay near the border at the Joda Reception Centre, though this varies between refugees (83 per cent) and returnees (55 per cent). Mid-term intentions suggest returnees may seek integration in their counties of origin in South Sudan, with barriers to movement including family reunification, mobility issues, and left-behind belongings. More information from the intentions survey can be accessed [here](#).
- UNHCR continues to monitor and respond to the cholera outbreak, with 17,356 cases and 254 deaths reported since the Ministry of Health's declaration in October 2024. The epicenter has shifted to Rubkona and Bentiu towns, key hubs for returnee arrivals from Sudan. In response, health actors are organizing a cholera oral vaccination programme in Unity State, following the successful campaign in Renk last month.

Population Movement and Registration

As of 5 January, 970,711 individuals have been recorded as arrivals in South Sudan through official entry points, with 3,822 individuals arriving in the past week.¹ This marks a continued decrease in arrivals over the last three weeks, following a surge in early December. It is important to note that these figures do not include approximately 27,000 new arrivals through unofficial entry points.

In Renk, the daily average of new arrivals has dropped to 1,100 individuals. At the same time, outflows back to Sudan via the Wunthou-Joda border have increased, driven by food distributions in the Sudanese refugee camps in White Nile State. Due to insufficient water supply and services in border communities east of Renk County, new arrivals are relocating to Chemmedi, Gossfami, Halaka, Rumela, and Gerger.

Relocation

Onward transportation for refugees transiting through Malakal has been suspended due to logistical challenges, with plans to resume next week. Additionally, no new relocations of refugees from Renk occurred during the reporting period.

Protection

In Bentiu, returnees continue to access their home counties but face challenges such as multiple checkpoints with tax demands, limited access to land, and scarce livelihood opportunities. These issues increase protection risks, including gender-based violence (GBV). Advocacy by the Protection Cluster is ongoing to secure land for returnees, with notable improvements in peaceful coexistence observed among returnees, displaced families, and host communities.

In Renk, UNHCR completed an [intentions survey](#) targeting 808 households from over 80,000 refugee and returnee arrivals since late November, following intensified fighting in Sudan's Blue Nile, White Nile, and Sennar States. The survey revealed that 58 per cent of new arrivals prefer to stay near the Joda Reception Centre at the border, though this varies between refugees (83 per cent) and returnees (55 per cent). While most intend to remain in Renk County in the short term, mid-term intentions indicate that returnees may seek integration in their counties of origin in South Sudan. Barriers to movement from the border include family reunification, left-behind belongings, and mobility challenges. Over 60 per cent of returnees originate from five South Sudanese counties, including Fangak and Akobo, which were the most affected by the 2024 floods and are still in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

¹ The figure reflects arrivals recorded at official entry points with border monitoring and does not include the 1,100 daily arrivals to Renk through unofficial entry points.

Following the rollout of border monitoring at informal crossings into Renk, UNHCR is deploying protection desks in receiving communities to strengthen the protection response.

Health and Nutrition

Since the Ministry of Health's cholera outbreak declaration in October 2024, a total of 17,356 cases have been reported, with 254 confirmed deaths. In recent weeks, the epicenter of the outbreak has shifted from Renk to Rubkona and Bentiu town, which is a hub for returnee arrivals from Sudan. As a result, health actors are organizing a cholera oral vaccination programme for Unity State next week, following a successful vaccination campaign in Renk last month.

In Gorom, 10 suspected cholera cases were reported, all of which have recovered after receiving treatment.

In Renk, UNHCR screened 2,756 children for malnutrition, identifying 75 as moderately malnourished and 62 as severely malnourished. All affected children have been enrolled in treatment programmes.

New arrivals through unofficial border crossings into Renk are facing significant health and nutrition gaps, as the receiving communities lack sufficient capacity to support the increased population.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

In Gorom, shelter repair and maintenance are ongoing for 100 identified shelters, many of which are in poor condition and require significant repairs. Sustainable shelter solutions are urgently needed to replace the current emergency shelters, which are unsuitable for long-term use.

In Renk, UNHCR, in collaboration with its implementing partners, has completed the construction of three communal shelters at the Renk extension site, accommodating 81 individuals. The upgrading of 22 additional shelters is also underway. The shelter response in Renk has been accelerated to address the recent influx of refugees over the past month, as well as the increase in the transit center population, which has risen from an average of 13,000 to 22,500 individuals. Many refugees remain in the open during Renk's coldest month, highlighting the urgent need for adequate shelter.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Gorom, UNHCR is closely monitoring cholera cases and has deployed 15 additional hygiene promoters, maintained 220 latrines and water sources, and restored six water points to improve WASH conditions. Despite these efforts, the current water ratio remains below the emergency standard at 13.7 liters per person, highlighting ongoing challenges in meeting the population's needs.

In Renk, WASH gaps persist, particularly in communities hosting new arrivals from unofficial border crossings. Partners have scaled up WASH and mobile services, but resources remain limited and insufficient to meet the growing needs of the increasing population.

UGANDA

Highlights

- As of 5 January 2025, Uganda has reported 1,552 confirmed cases of Mpox since the outbreak began in July 2024. This includes 123 active admissions, 862 recoveries, and 12 fatalities. There were no new cases among refugees during the reporting period, maintaining the total at seven individuals (one in Adjumani, one in Bidibidi, one in Nakivale, and four in Kampala) who tested positive, received treatment, and have now fully recovered. UNHCR and partners continue coordinating with the Ministry of Health to ensure ongoing Mpox surveillance.
- Significant progress has been made in improving infrastructure in Kiryandongo, including the rehabilitation of roads, ongoing settlement mapping to enhance service delivery, and the installation of new solar panels to boost the efficiency of water systems. Additionally, 24 out of 28 shelters for vulnerable individuals have been completed. However, challenges persist, with overcrowding in both the transit centers and schools, as well as inadequate water provision, which continues to affect the health and well-being of refugees in the settlement.

Population Movements and Registration

Since the onset of the conflict in April 2023, a total of 65,534 refugees from Sudan have been registered in Uganda. Since January 2024, 50,036 individuals from Sudan have sought asylum and been registered in Uganda.

Due to the absence of government registration officers over the holiday season, new arrivals were not entered into the registration system. These numbers will be updated in the next weekly report.

Relocation

During the reporting period, 532 individuals (286 female, 246 male) from 182 households were relocated to demarcated plots.

Protection

Access to Territory

Prima facie recognition for Sudanese asylum seekers remains in effect. General violence and insecurity led to 230 new Sudanese arrivals in Uganda during the reporting week.

Reception Centres

56 per cent (973 out of 1,727 individuals) of the refugees hosted in Adjumani Sub-Office, and Nyumanzi and Kiryandongo reception centers are Sudanese nationals.

Legal and Physical Protection

A one-day training on alternative dispute resolution was held in Magamaga for 94 participants, including 23 nationals and 71 refugees. The training aimed to enhance conflict management skills within the community.

People with Specific Needs (PSN)

24 out of 28 single room shelters for extremely vulnerable individuals have been completed. Construction is ongoing for the remaining four shelters, and overall work is estimated to be 80 percent.

Child Protection

During the reporting week, 68 caregivers (30 male, 38 female) were reached with awareness and capacity-building activities on child rights and responsibilities in the Kiryandongo settlement, during birth certificate distribution by para social workers.

A 4-year-old refugee girl was hit by a motorcyclist in Kiryandongo, sustaining multiple fractures. She is currently receiving treatment at the Panyadoli Health Centre IV. The incident was reported by a community-based worker, and the suspect is currently detained by the police.

Settlement, Shelter, and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

Rehabilitation of roads in Kiryandongo refugee settlement

UNHCR, in collaboration with the Kiryandongo District Local Government, has initiated the rehabilitation of 9.7 km of deteriorated roads within the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

Settlement mapping for planning purposes

With support from UNHCR's Technical Unit in Kampala, settlement mapping activities in Kiryandongo have made significant progress. The objective of this initiative is to improve service delivery through effective settlement planning.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

To improve the solar energy supply for two water systems, old solar panels were replaced with more efficient ones, making the systems work better and use less energy. For example, solar panels that were previously 100Wp, 80Wp, and 75Wp were replaced with stronger 345Wp panels, significantly boosting the power output. The Kiryandongo II water system now has 36 new solar panels, providing enough energy to run the pump efficiently.

Additionally, the Disabled water system received an upgrade with 18 more solar panels, adding extra power and improving pump performance. To protect both water systems, lightning arresters were installed, which will help prevent damage from lightning or power surges.

Work is also underway to extend the water supply to Cluster OQ from the Kiryandongo II system, which includes building two large water storage tanks and installing three new tap stands for easier access to water. The area around the tanks has been fenced off to ensure the security of the facility.

Challenges

Overcrowding in classrooms

In Kiryandongo, overcrowded classrooms are significantly affecting the quality of education for students. The influx of new arrivals has exacerbated the issue, with limited classroom space and seating posing major challenges. Additionally, the long distances many children must travel to reach school discourage regular attendance. Many schools are located in areas already occupied by earlier arrivals, forcing new arrivals to relocate further away, leading to long daily commutes for those who do attend.

Overcrowding at transit centres

Due to the ongoing influx of refugees, particularly from Sudan, both the Kiryandongo and Nyumanzi transit centers are severely overcrowded. As of 4 January, the Kiryandongo transit center was operating at 323 per cent occupancy, with 1,213 individuals residing in a space designed for just 375 people. The Nyumanzi transit center was at 146 per cent occupancy, holding 1,205 individuals in a space with a capacity of 823. This overcrowding is severely impacting reception conditions, especially in the areas of health, protection, and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) for new arrivals.

Water Shortage

In Kiryandongo, the supply of clean water remains critically low. The amount of water available per person has decreased from 14 liters per person per day (l/p/d) in January 2024 to just 9 l/p/d in December 2024. Despite several investments in water infrastructure, the available resources are insufficient to keep up with the pace of new arrivals. This shortage significantly increases the risk of waterborne diseases, posing serious health risks to the refugee population.

Inadequate Incinerators

The current incinerators at the four health facilities in Kiryandongo are unable to efficiently handle and dispose of biohazardous waste; more advanced incinerators are required to address this issue effectively.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

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

On 2 July, UNHCR and 86 organizations launched the [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) mid-year update, with an appeal for **USD 1.5 billion** to provide essential aid and protection to a total of **3.3 million people** in seven countries by the end of 2024. This includes 2.8 million refugees, returnees, and others who have fled the ongoing conflict in Sudan and 500,000 host community members. As of 31 December, the total reported funding for the RRP reached some USD 450.65 million, representing **30%** of the required amount.

Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) – January - December 2024

The [Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) was launched on 7 February and requires **USD 2.7 billion** to assist **14.7 million people**. As of 31 December, the total funding for the HRP reached USD 1.75 billion, covering **65%** of the requirements. Access OCHA's Financial Tracking Service here: [OCHA FTS](#).

UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – January - December 2024

UNHCR's total financial requirement for the 2024 [Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal](#), covering Sudan and neighbouring countries, was revised on 3 July. It now amounts to **USD 1.03 billion**. As of 31 December, the appeal is funded at **42%**.

Resources

- [NEW! Surge in Arrivals to South Sudan – Operational Presence in Renk](#)
- [NEW! Inter-Agency Update on the surge in arrivals to South Sudan](#)
- [UNHCR Sudan Situation Appeal 2025](#)
- [Sudan-Emergency-Critical-Life-Saving-Needs](#)
- [UNHCR Mpox Appeal 2024](#)
- [Sudan Regional Refugee Response 2024 - June revision](#)
- [Sudan Regional Response 2024 - At a glance](#)
- UNHCR's [Sudan Situation Supplementary Appeal - 2024 - June revision](#)
- [Sudan RRP 2024 Progress Report – January to April 2024](#)
- UNHCR's [Operational Data Portal \(ODP\) for the Sudan Situation](#) provides weekly updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan's neighbouring countries.
- [UNHCR and IOM Joint Dashboard](#) of arrivals to South Sudan, including data on returnee intentions, onward movements, and numbers and locations of returnees in and around Renk.
- [UNHCR Global Focus Sudan Operation page](#)
- [UNHCR Sudan Emergency website](#)
- UNHCR's HELP site for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Sudan provides information to individuals seeking information and support inside Sudan (in [English](#) and [Arabic](#)).

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