

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

9 – 22 February 2025



*Distribution of non-food items to newly arrived Sudanese refugees in the Korsi, Birao (CAR). © UNHCR/Stella FATIME*

### Highlights

- The security situation in Bamingui-Bangoran has worsened in recent weeks, marked by the killing of a UN peacekeeper near Zobassinda on 11 February. Due to ongoing insecurity, including robberies and kidnappings by armed groups, humanitarian actors have suspended their movements along main roads. This suspension is further restricting humanitarian access to Sudanese refugees in Zobassinda, Koundi, and Akoursoulback.
- In Vakaga, near the Sudanese border, security has deteriorated. On 13 February, three armed men attempted to rob a UNHCR vehicle loaned to an NGO partner near the Korsi refugee neighborhood in Birao. Another NGO mission in Birao was intercepted and robbed by unidentified armed bandits, highlighting the growing risks for civilians and humanitarian workers.
- Insecurity in Vakaga has reduced movement along key routes, leading to rising market prices as traders avoid travel, affecting both refugees and host communities. Despite improved road conditions in the dry season, instability continues to limit humanitarian access. In response, military patrols have resumed, and protection actors have intensified monitoring, with community-based protection mechanisms playing a key role.

## Population Movement and Registration

The conflict in Sudan continues to drive refugee arrivals into CAR, with 3,506 new Sudanese refugees (1,279 households) arriving in Birao over the past two weeks. The average weekly arrival rate in February has risen to 872, a three-fold increase compared to January. The population in Korsi, Birao, has now reached 21,076 people (8,681 households), with women and girls making up 54 per cent of the population (11,558 individuals).

The sharp increase in arrivals is primarily driven by intensified airstrikes in Nyala, Darfur, where most refugees originate. Additionally, improved road conditions during the dry season have facilitated transportation along the border. However, refugees continue to face significant challenges in their journey to CAR, as non-state armed groups are blocking key routes, forcing them to take longer and more dangerous paths to safety.

In Akroussoulbak and Koundi, Bamingui-Bangoran region, 117 new refugees (45 households)—mostly women and children—have arrived following clashes between Sudanese armed forces and non-state armed groups. These newly arrived refugees are in urgent need of shelter, food, and other essential services.

Over the past two weeks, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) have conducted biometric registration for 1,330 individuals (502 households) in Korsi. Among those registered, 116 individuals with specific needs were identified, including unaccompanied and separated children, women at risk, older persons, people with disabilities, individuals with serious medical conditions, and single parents.

On 13 February, CNR, in coordination with UNHCR and its partner Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement (CIAUD), relocated 61 Sudanese asylum seekers from Bossangoa in the Ouham Prefecture to Korsi, Birao in the Vakaga region, where they can access basic services. This relocation was made possible with logistical support from MINUSCA, which provided the aircraft for transportation.

## Protection

Between 17 and 22 February, UNHCR's partner CIAUD recorded multiple protection incidents in the Vakaga region, including robbery, violations of property rights, extortion, theft, and the imposition of illegal taxes, primarily attributed to non-state armed groups. Additionally, individual protection interviews were conducted with more than 20 individuals in Korsi, focusing on concerns related to documentation, food, and non-food items.

In the Bamingui-Bangoran region, WFP, in partnership with Plan International, trained eight refugees from both Sudanese and Chadian communities on child protection and complaints management in Ndélé, Akoursoulbak, Zobossinda, and Koundi.

## Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

Over the past two weeks, 44 emergency shelters were constructed in Korsi, Birao, while semi-durable shelter construction progressed, with 121 fully completed, 44 awaiting final plastering and the installation of doors and windows, and 55 still under construction.

Despite these efforts, shelter shortages persist among newly arrived refugees in Birao, due to extremely limited funding. Many are temporarily staying in the Korsi safe space and the information center while awaiting solutions. In response, CNR, UNHCR, NOURRIR, and local authorities held an emergency meeting to explore temporary shelter solutions.

In the past two weeks, 599 refugee families (1,713 individuals) received non-food items from UNHCR in Korsi, Birao, including mattresses, blankets, jerrycans, buckets, cooking utensils, and mosquito nets.

## Food security

In the past two weeks, WFP, in collaboration with UNHCR and CNAR, distributed dry food rations to 532 refugee families (1,614 individuals) in Korsi, Birao.

### **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)**

The water supply in Korsi has slightly improved following the repair of a borehole, the upgrade of a water pump, and water trucking, increasing the daily supply to 12.8 liters per person (up from 7.4 liters the previous week). However, this remains below the Sphere standard of 15 liters per person per day, and the halt in water facility construction due to funding freezes affecting UNICEF and UN Women's partners continues to exacerbate the situation.

The construction of boreholes in Ndélé, Akroussoulbak, Koundi, and Zobossinda in the Bamingui-Bangoran region was suspended following the attack on peacekeepers two weeks ago.

On sanitation, the number of latrines in Korsi remains at 393 (261 emergency and 132 semi-durable), unchanged since early February, due to a funding freeze that halted new latrine construction by UNICEF's partner, Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH). With the growing refugee population in Korsi and no additional latrines, the latrine-to-person ratio has increased from 45 to 53, exceeding the Sphere emergency standard of 50 people per latrine.

To mitigate health risks, hygiene and sanitation teams from UNHCR's partner, NOURRIR, continue conducting awareness campaigns within the refugee community. Over the past two weeks, they engaged 7,402 households through focus groups, block-by-block activities, and door-to-door outreach, covering topics such as water point management, sanitary facility maintenance, and hygiene practices.

### **Health and Nutrition**

From 8 to 14 February, medical teams from the Centre de Sport en Santé Internationale (CSSI) and the International Medical Corps (IMC), under the coordination of the Vakaga Health District, conducted 998 medical consultations in Korsi. Of these, 107 consultations (11 per cent) were for the host population, while 891 (89 per cent) were for refugees, including 402 new arrivals (40 per cent). Among the patients, 274 children aged 0 to 59 months (27 per cent) received treatment. Since the beginning of 2025, 6,603 consultations have been conducted, with 10 per cent provided to host communities.

The most diagnosed illnesses were acute respiratory infections (485 cases; 49 per cent), malaria (243 cases; 24 per cent), and intestinal parasitic diseases (122 cases; 12 per cent). All patients received outpatient treatment.

Between 8 and 14 February, 56 forcibly displaced women received prenatal consultations, bringing the total to 354 in 2025. Additionally, two postnatal consultations were conducted, raising the annual total to 15. A total of 62 women received gynecological consultations, bringing the cumulative total to 410 for 2025. Fourteen women accessed family planning services, increasing the total to 79 for the year. Three babies were delivered during this period, bringing the total number of deliveries to 25 and newborns to 22 in 2025.

During medical consultations in Korsi, 274 children aged 6 to 59 months were screened for malnutrition. Thirteen cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and three cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were identified and treated. So far in 2025, 77 MAM cases and 19 SAM cases have been recorded and treated out of 1,974 children screened.

Additionally, 24 patients were referred from Korsi to the Birao District Hospital, increasing the annual total to 136 referrals. Ten pregnant women received tetanus vaccines, and 13 children were vaccinated with multi-antigen vaccines, bringing the 2025 total to 68 children vaccinated.

Mental health services also remain critical. Nine new mental health cases were recorded and treated, including five refugees and four host community members. The total number of mental health cases treated in 2025 stands at 55 cases, including 37 refugees and 18 from the host population.

## Response Plans and Funding Situation

### Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) – January – December 2025

The [Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025](#), launched on 17 February 2025, is an appeal for **USD 1.8 billion for 111 partners** to provide essential aid and protection to a total of **5 million people** in seven countries by the end of 2025. This includes 4 million refugees, returnees, and others who have fled the ongoing conflict in Sudan and over 800,000 host community members. Access UNHCR's Refugee Funding Tracker [here](#).

### Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) – January - December 2025

The 2025 [Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#), published on 31 December 2024, requires **USD 4.2 billion** to assist **21 million people**. The HRP includes the response for refugees hosted by Sudan. As of 28 January, the total funding for the HRP reached USD 115.4 million, covering **2.8%** of the requirements. Access OCHA's Financial Tracking Service here: [OCHA FTS](#).

### UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – January - December 2025

UNHCR's financial requirement for 2025 for the [Sudan situation emergency response](#) – in Sudan and RRP countries – amounts to **USD 1.1 billion**.

## 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](#)

#### Contacts:

**Gloria Ramazani**\_External Relations Officer ([ramazang@unhcr.org](mailto:ramazang@unhcr.org));

**Ying HU**\_Associate External Relations Officer ([huyi@unhcr.org](mailto:huyi@unhcr.org));

**Stella Fatime**\_Public Information Associate ([fatime@unhcr.org](mailto:fatime@unhcr.org)).

Follow us on our [X \(twitter.com\)](#) [UNHCR Centrafrique](#) | [Bangui](#) | [Facebook](#)