

SUDAN SITUATION

15 May 2023



Women and children at the arrival site in Am Dafock, Vakaga region, Central African Republic, awaiting to receive tokens to enable them to receive food distributions. © UNHCR/Stella Fatime.

Highlights

Clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been ongoing for one month now. Khartoum remains the epicenter of fighting while a significant increase in crime, looting and banditry has been reported in many areas.

After a week of talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, facilitated by KSA and USA, [SAF and RSF signed an agreement](#) on 11 May to guide the conduct of the two forces to enable the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, the restoration of essential services, the withdrawal of forces from hospitals and clinics, and the respectful burial of the dead. Following the signing of the [Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan](#), the talks in Jeddah will continue, focusing on reaching an agreement on an effective ceasefire to facilitate these activities.

[WHO reports](#) that 70% of health facilities in areas affected by conflict are out of service. WHO also said that outbreaks of malaria, dengue and measles have been reported in Sudan amidst the fighting.

During an emergency session on 11 May, the [UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution](#) calling for a detailed human rights monitoring of the situation in Sudan and documentation of all alleged human rights violations and abuses since the military takeover on 25 October 2021, including those arising directly from the current conflict. Voting against the resolution, Sudan's ambassador [described the conflict as an internal affair](#).

On 12 May, UNHCR [called](#) for immediate financial support for all involved in the Sudan response to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe, prevent tensions over strained resources and support those forced to flee in a dignified manner as well as the host communities that receive them. Some 200,000 refugees and refugee returnees have been forced to flee the country, with more crossing borders daily seeking safety. Additionally, hundreds of thousands have been [internally displaced](#) with many more confined to their homes, unable to access necessities.

Resources

- The UNHCR *Operational Data Portal* (ODP) for the Sudan Situation is an information and data sharing platform, which provides daily updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan's neighbouring countries: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation>
- The UNHCR *HELP site for refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan* provides information to individuals seeking information or support inside Sudan (both in [English](#) and [Arabic](#)).

OVERVIEW: Countries neighbouring Sudan impacted by this new emergency are already hosting large refugee and internally displaced populations. The majority remain severely underfunded. Hosting countries will need additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance. Initial assessments show that the new asylum-seekers, refugees, refugee returnees and other arrivals' most urgent needs identified to date are water, food, shelter, health, and core relief items. In terms of protection, the current priority activities are the registration of new arrivals and ensuring that mechanisms are in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and ensure alternative care services for unaccompanied refugee children.

218,504 Estimated newly arrived individuals

161,619 Total newly arrived refugees/asylum seekers

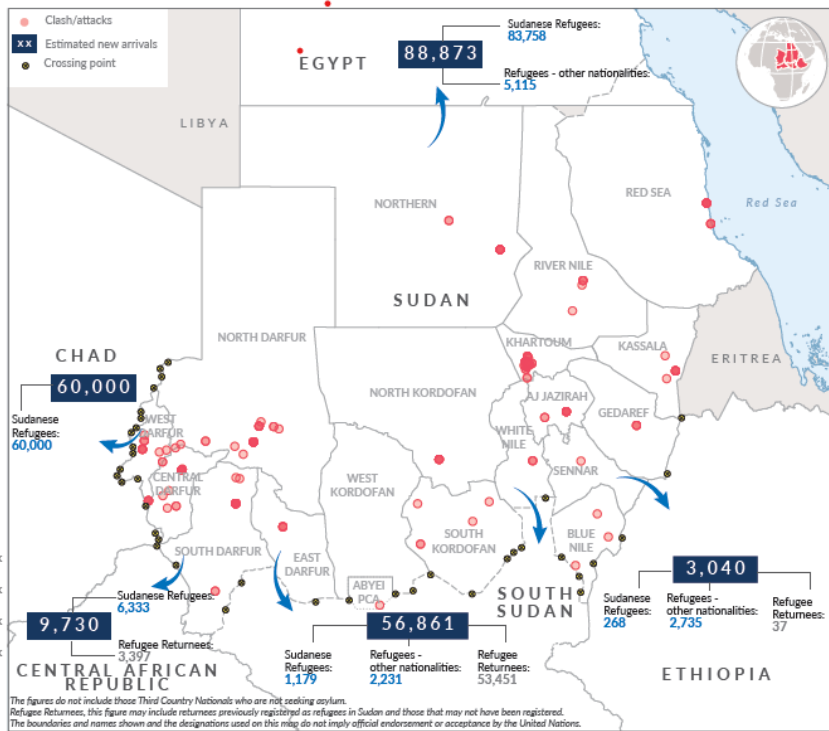
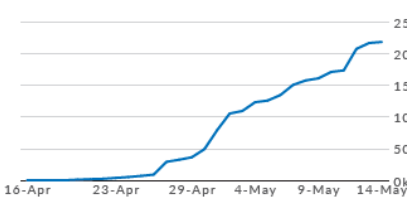
Arrivals by population type

Sudanese Refugees - 151.5k Refugees - other nationalities - 10.1k Refugee Returnees - 56.9k

Estimated gender breakdown of new arrivals

Female 57% Male 43%

Arrival trends



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Operational updates

Following the signing of the declaration of commitment to protect civilians of Sudan, and in view of a potential extended ceasefire allowing access both into and out of Khartoum, UNHCR is reviewing options to reposition some core relief items in Medani (Jazirah state).

Over the weekend, 3 additional UNHCR international staff have arrived in Port Sudan. There are now a total of 9 international staff in Port Sudan (20 total in Sudan). Rotation of staff in Sudan continues to be assessed in line with UNDSS guidelines.

Discussions are ongoing on the establishment of a common UN back office in Abeche, Chad to respond to the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

Internet connectivity continues to be severely challenging for several areas in Sudan.

Updates by location

Port Sudan (Red Sea State)

UNHCR continues to coordinate with the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and the Commission for Refugees (COR) on the distribution of core relief items (CRIs) to refugee and IDP families sheltering in different sites in Port Sudan. As of 10 May, 762 households, of which 156 are refugee households, have received assistance. Each CRI kit is composed of a blanket, sleeping mat, jerry can, kitchen set, mosquito net, and plastic sheet. An interagency multisectoral rapid assessment led by UNHCR is scheduled to commence on 15 May. Distribution of core relief items has been paused and will resume after the conclusion of the assessment.

Gedaref

UNHCR's Representative in Sudan conducted a mission to Gedaref from 11 to 13 May, where he met with the Wali (Governor) of Gedaref and partners. The Wali noted that the arrival of IDPs into Gedaref has put considerable pressure on the host community and local resources, including local healthcare services. The Wali indicated that support from the UN through provision of healthcare services and food for IDPs is urgently needed.

The Representative also visited Gallabat border crossing point at the border with Ethiopia (Metema in the Amhara region of Ethiopia). Immigration and border authorities reported that people from more than 60 nationalities have crossed the border into Ethiopia, the majority of whom were Turkish nationals who were living and working in Khartoum. Moreover, some 5,000 Ethiopians had returned while about 3,000 Eritreans, some of whom were refugees in Sudan, had entered Ethiopia. In addition, it was noted that the number of border crossings had slightly dropped from about 1,000 people per day in the days following the outbreak of the conflict to approximately 600 per day.

Finally, the Representative also met with partners in Gedaref, who reiterated that operating conditions are very challenging due to lack of access to cash, shortage of fuel and frequent network connectivity issues. The Representative discussed with partners the need to remain vigilant about gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, and strengthen prevention and mitigation efforts as current conditions have exacerbated vulnerabilities of the forcibly displaced.

UNHCR and COR have so far registered/verified 3,737 refugees and 1,427 asylum seekers in Um Gulja, the site of a previously closed refugee camp. Of this number, over 62% are Eritreans (957 refugees and 1,372 asylum seekers), more than 36% are Ethiopians (763 refugees and 612 asylum seekers), and the remaining <2% are Somalis (19), South Sudanese (4) and Sudanese IDPs (10). Among this population, about 38% are men (1,418), 34% women (1,269) and 28% children (1,050).

In addition, COR has reported the arrival of 868 refugees and asylum seekers in Tunaydbah, 391 in Um Rakuba and 168 in Um Gargour camps.

Food distribution concluded in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah and is due to start in Babikri on 16 May.

Kassala

UNHCR's Representative was in Kassala from 10 to 11 May, where he met with COR and other partners. COR reported that Kassala state has recorded 5,095 arrivals, of which COR has identified 1,486 Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers. Except for 529 residing in town and 22 who voluntarily returned to Eritrea, the Eritreans have been relocated to Shagarab camp. Partners raised the operational challenges faced in responding to the displacement. The situation has resulted in overcrowded camps and a shortage of basic necessities.

The Representative also visited the reception center in Wad Sharife camp where he met with youth and women in the registration center. The individuals expressed intention to seek safety in Kassala for the time being and to

return to Khartoum once the security situation permits. In a meeting with the refugee committee, refugees expressed the need for additional support in terms of water and sanitation (WASH) services and livelihood opportunities in the camp. Additionally, since schools are occupied by displaced individuals, women face increased burden of childcare.

UNHCR and the Assistant Commissioner for Refugees (ACOR) Kassala carried out a joint monitoring mission to all three Shagarab Camps and visited the reception center facility to assess reception arrangements and living conditions of the refugees and asylum seekers there. The team also met with COR field staff members to discuss the protection issues in the camps as well as challenges and concerns. COR staff cited lack of stable internet connectivity as one of the key impediments to the smooth running of registration and RSD procedures.

UNHCR's partner, Plan International coordinated with WFP to provide food items that had run out at the unaccompanied children's center in Shagarab 1 camp.

Blue Nile

The general situation is calm, with the main security concerns being crime and civil unrest.

In Camp 6, UNHCR and COR convened a camp coordination meeting with partners. The general security situation in the camp is stable owing to the implementation of additional security measures, such as night patrols by the police and closure of shops and markets by 5:00 p.m. by COR, camp-based police and the refugee community.

In Camp 6, UNHCR and partners continue to provide protection and basic services to refugees in the camp amidst shortage of fuel and lack of access to cash. While the government has made efforts for fuel availability, partners and contractors do not have access to cash to purchase fuel. This has had an impact on construction activities, maintenance of water points that are not solarized, and other activities including garbage collection in the camp.

UNHCR partner ACTED distributed emergency shelter and CRI kits to newly registered refugees. Food remains a key issue as WFP is yet to lift its suspension of activities in Blue Nile. This has led some women and children to leave the camp in search of work in the cotton fields, which has in turn impacted school attendance and increased protection risks including child labor and GBV.

Following the malfunctioning of the main water pump in Camp 6, UNHCR and ACTED are in the process of procuring a hybrid water pump that will use solar energy and diesel fuel to ensure uninterrupted water supply in the camp.

White Nile

The verification of spontaneous arrivals from Khartoum continues. As of 11 May, 9,973 individuals have been verified, of which 5,805 (58%) were found to be refugees already registered in Khartoum. A meeting is scheduled to discuss options for the remaining 4,168 unregistered individuals. To respond to the spontaneous arrivals from Khartoum and other unsafe areas, surge capacity support is being moved from other offices to lead technical sectors in support of the opening of Abu Dolou settlement.

In the camps, the rapid needs assessment for refugees started on 14 May. WFP has also started food distribution in 7 out of 10 camps. UNHCR's CRI distribution is ongoing for a targeted population among spontaneous arrivals due to a lack of CRIs available.

UNHCR and partners are increasing their presence at the Joda reception center to strengthen border monitoring.

West Kordofan

UNHCR received a report from a community-based protection network (CBPN) member on large numbers of South Sudanese refugees moving to Kharasana and onward to South Sudan.

South Kordofan

Local authorities have formed a local emergency committee comprising different entities including humanitarian

partners. The locality emergency coordinator is requesting the mobilization of CRI and a response to the situation amid reports that 440 Sudanese IDP households (2276 individuals) have arrived in Abu Jubayhah, in addition to 26 households (70 individuals) of South Sudanese refugees who have arrived to Abu Jubayhah from Khartoum.

North Darfur

The situation is calm though unpredictable. Shooting was reported on 12 May and clashes were also reported in Abu Shouk IDP camp. Insecurity in the state is mainly related to banditry and criminal activity.

Despite operational challenges including unstable connectivity, delivery of assistance continues. UNHCR partner Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery commenced distribution of personal hygiene kits to the maternity hospital. WFP has initiated food distribution for IDPs in two camps on the outskirts of El Fasher town.

In the Al Lait refugee settlements, refugees are anxious since they have not received any assistance since 2 May when humanitarian agencies including UNHCR partners withdrew from Al Lait following the deterioration of the security situation after a period of relative calm.

West Darfur

Major clashes were reported on 12 May between Arab and Masalit leading to civilian casualties and injuries; numbers are not yet confirmed. This development comes amid reports that the Arab and Masalit signed a ceasefire agreement on 11 May. UNITAMS and the Principal Situation Coordinator for Darfur continue to advocate with the Darfur Region Governor to intervene to de-escalate the situation.

Central Darfur

Looting incidents in Zalingei town increased, allegedly due to the mobilization of armed militia elements. Houses in the residential area where UN premises are, have been broken into and looted by unidentified armed intruders.

In the Um Dukhun locality that borders Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR), the security situation is reported to be tense.

UNFPA reports that Zalingei Hospital remains the only facility providing medical services, including GBV services in the state. However, it has run out of medical supplies. The GBV sub-sector working group plans to conduct a rapid services mapping of functioning services in Central Darfur. Hotlines to provide remote GBV assistance, managed by Norwegian Church Aid and Ministry of Health, have been activated.

East Darfur

The security situation is still calm in Ed Daein. WFP resumed food distribution for refugees through its partner, Sudanese Red Crescent Society, as of 13 May.

South Darfur

The situation remains tense, with both parties currently at the highest alert level, and looting reported at the Nyala University. Protection monitoring is ongoing but becoming increasingly dangerous.

SOUTH SUDAN

The cumulative number of arrivals recorded as of 14 May had increased to 10,242 households consisting of 57,425 individuals, including mainly South Sudanese returnees, and Eritrean and Sudanese refugees.

Juba

On 11 May, 3,594 asylum seekers were recorded in Juba at both the Juba Reception Centre and the newly established registration centre by partner ACROSS. Currently all new asylum seekers in Juba are Sudanese nationals. This brings the total number of individuals seeking asylum in Juba as a result of the Sudan conflict to 8,368 individuals. The majority of new arrivals are single male adults, with a recent increase of women and

children. There is also an increase of *Sur Place*¹ Sudanese nationals who have been already staying in Juba before the conflict now applying for asylum.

The government of South Sudan through CRA resumed the relocation of vulnerable Sudanese new arrivals to Juba to Gorom refugee camp. As of 14 May, Gorom refugee camp hosts 478 Sudanese new arrivals.

Maban (Upper Nile)

New arrivals: On 14 May, a total of 990 individuals (226 households) arrived at Joda border point and were registered by UNHCR, IOM and partner Humanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC). Cumulatively, 47,532 individuals have arrived and been recorded at the Joda border point.

Transit Centre: On 13 May, 358 individuals (98 households) were received at the Transit Centre in Renk. The government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) has started the registration of South Sudanese returnees by state to facilitate their onward movements.

Refugees and asylum-seekers: UNHCR has been conducting an exercise in Renk town to register asylum-seekers and refugees ready to go to the refugee camps in Maban. As of 14 May, a total of 738 individuals (4 households) had expressed their willingness to go to the camps.

Transportation of returnees: On 13 May, the first river transport by IOM left Renk for Malakal transporting 577 individuals. Another barge left on 14 May with 348 individuals on board. The next trip is scheduled to take place on 15 May.

Coordination: The UNHCR-led coordination groups for Cash and Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) met on 14 May to harmonize cash response plans in Renk. The broader approach to the planned cash assistance is to promote onward movement and also to avail support to cover basic needs during the journey or upon arrival at the next destination. The earlier agreed position not to intervene with physical cash handouts at the transit centre remains unchanged. A consensus has been reached on the urgent need to provide emergency-related cash support during the journey and at point of destination.

Malakal (Upper Nile)

On 12 May, UNHCR partner Humanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC) and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) reported arrival of 459 refugee returnees (87 households) from Sudan to Longechuk, Maiwut, Ulang Manyo and Malakal, all of whom returned through the Renk border point. Cumulatively, 5,150 individuals (829 households) have arrived in Malakal since the onset of influx from Sudan.

Bentiu (Unity)

On 12 May, UNHCR and partner Hope Restoration South Sudan recorded the arrival of 26 individuals (7 households) to Leer county. The seven families came to Unity State through Panakuach border point. The families mentioned Leer county as their final destinations and expressed relief for returning home safely. The major needs highlighted include food, nutrition and shelters. They also reported that many families will be arriving in the next few days; the lack of transportation was cited as a major issue faced by stranded families trying to cross over.

Jamjang (Unity | Ruweng Administrative Area)

Panakuach border point has been used by returnees since the outbreak of the crisis in Sudan. It is located approximately 92 kms from UNHCR's office in Jamjang, while Lalop where the returnees are being transported is approximately 24 kms from Panakuach border point. The situation in Panakuach border entry point and at Lalop site remained calm, allowing for UNHCR, IOM and government representatives to conduct their work.

Cumulatively, 2,543 returnees/refugees/asylum-seekers (624 households) have been received through Panakuach border point between 21 April - 13 May. Among them, 2,505 individuals (609 households) are returnees and have been transported to Lalop while 38 individuals (15 households) are refugees transported to Ruweng Administrative Area. More returnees are reported to be on the way, following news that a recently closed checkpoint on the Sudan side of the border had reopened on 14 May.

¹ See [UNHCR's Position on Returns to Sudan](#) for more details.

On 13 May, UNHCR organized a joint mission team to visit Lalop and Panakuach. The mission team included representatives of Action Africa Help International (AAHI), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

In Lalop, the mission team engaged with the humanitarian team tasked by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) of Bentiu/Unity State for a multi sectoral assessment including the return intentions. The humanitarian team and government actors shared the concerns faced by the returnee community including limited humanitarian response in Lalop, scarce water resources, security issues including vandalization and theft of their properties, and hostility from some internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Lalop. It was also observed that no services including protection vulnerability screening in Lalop were provided other than the pick-and-drop-off services between Panakuach and Lalop.

The team also met with the RRC in Panakuach and discussed with them the purpose of the mission which included following up on a request shared by UNHCR for suitable land to accommodate the new arrivals. RRC Panakuach has identified a piece of land that is located within a dyke that would protect it from flooding. UNHCR and AAHI were able to assess the land immediately and confirm that it is suitable for the establishment of a humanitarian transit centre. This transit centre would be a way station where people will be identified and referred to either Lalop or Ruweng. UNHCR will work closely with government and other humanitarian actors to establish the transit centre, which will include a waiting area, and health, vulnerability and protection screening, among other services.

Northern Bahr El Ghazal

On 12 May, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management visited Northern Bahr El Ghazal State to assess the situation of returnees and refugees. The State Governor and humanitarians joined the visit to Kiir Adem border point in Aweil North where returnees and asylum seekers have been camping in Kiir Adem for several weeks. The government estimates the population at 15,000 with about 50% being asylum seekers.

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Governor of Northern Bahr El Ghazal called for immediate intervention and the relocation of the asylum seekers to land allocated by the State Government at Wadwill. An assessment on the proposed relocation site will be conducted.

UNHCR conducted a joint assessment with CRA, RRC, UNOCHA, WFP, IOM and the Centre for Emergency and Development Support (CEDS) to the location designated by the State Government for a transit site for asylum seekers. The site is located 40 km from Aweil town, in Aweil West County.

Abyei Administrative Area

UNHCR and the CRA on mission in Abyei met with the Government Task Force on cross border displacement from Sudan to discuss the allocation of land for a transit centre in Abyei.

ETHIOPIA

Population movements

According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), from 21 April to 15 May, more than 20,400 people (66 nationalities) have arrived in Metema (Amhara region). IOM is currently recording over 600 arrivals per day. Of these, the largest group are Ethiopian nationals (48%), followed by Sudanese (17%), Eritreans (11%) and Turks (8%).

As of 12 May, 3,040 people (76% Eritreans, 9% Sudanese, and 14% South Sudanese) including 37 Ethiopian refugees returning from Sudan, have sought international protection. Of these, 2,315 crossed through Metema, 447 entered via the Kurmuk border point in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, and 278 through Pagak/Burbley in the Gambella region.

Protection

In Metema, on 12 and 13 May, 82 persons approached the UNHCR protection desk seeking information on the relocation to the new site, resettlement and registration.

During the verification process, 76 families stated that they had pending resettlement cases prior to their flight from Sudan; 80 individuals reported at the protection desk to be in possession of visas and bookings for scheduled onward departures.

On 12 May, the Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS) and UNHCR conducted mass sensitization for Eritrean refugees on the issue of irregular movements within Ethiopia.

Food and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

At Metema, transit center on 13 May, UNHCR and RRS began with the distribution of CRIs (blankets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, laundry soaps, buckets and jerricans) to the first group of 50 refugees and asylum-seekers. The distribution of CRIs to the rest of the refugees and asylum seekers accommodated at the transit site has continued over the weekend.

Over the weekend, UNHCR through partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) supported 776 people with warm meals in both the transit site and at the Metema border.

In Kurmuk, upon UNHCR's request, the RRS replenished stocks of CRIs (solar lanterns, sleeping mats, laundry soap, sanitary pads and mosquito nets) for the transit center. Responding to UNHCR's call, and through a coordinated effort with the RRS, various partners have provided CRIs from their stocks.

Shelter and WASH

At the Metema transit center, on 12 and 13 May, 445 refugees and asylum-seekers (227 families) were relocated to the transit site Gorfu Tarara, some 6 km from the Metema border point. All were accommodated in eight hangars.

The construction of four blocks of emergency trench latrines and four shower blocks was completed.

Water trucking continued at the transit centre, as well as the chlorination of water in tanks. Following the relocation of refugees, most of the WASH services have become fully operational.

Authorities and RRS are considering the establishment of a permanent site for refugees and asylum-seekers in Kumera (West Gondar zone, Amhara region), 40 km from the town of Gendewuha.

The construction of communal hangers at Tsore camp (Benishangul-Gumuz region) was suspended on 12 May, after the local authorities, through RRS, informed UNHCR that they did not want to have more refugees accommodated in the camp. UNHCR, RRS and district officials are trying to find a solution to the impasse, through the establishment of a transit center at the Sherkole refugee camp. Until then, UNHCR and partners will continue to provide basic services at the Kurmuk transit centre.

CHAD

A recent influx of approximately 30,000 individuals, mostly women and children, to Borota, Chad, has brought the total number of refugee arrivals from Sudan to about 60,000.

On 11 May 2023, a rapid protection assessment was conducted in Borota, and the main needs identified were protection, shelter, core relief items, dignity kits, food, education, WASH and health services.

Registration

As of 11 May, the total number of refugees counted has reached 28,433 individuals (8,176 households) in Chad. Out of these, 17,635 (5,183 households) were pre-registered in Ouddai and Sila provinces.

Protection and Protection Monitoring

An estimated 30,000 individuals have arrived in Borota and Goungour in the last few days. They are originally from the Sudanese villages of Abode, Baouda, Kassim, Dema, Kassarous, Mengeno, Birtebi, Honre, Gondje, and Konga. They were already living as internally displaced persons in Kongoharaze, Sudan, before crossing to Chad in search of safety and security.

Some refugees reported being subjected to abuse by armed groups in Sudan in order to cross the border.

Focus groups held with women and girls led to the identification of gender-based violence survivors, mainly from psychological and emotional abuse, and forced and early marriages. Child abductions in Sudan were also reported.

As part of Project 21 interagency protection monitoring system, some 822 households have been interviewed so far. Results from the monitoring included:

- 89% of households did not encounter any difficulties in accessing Chad;
- 17% of households reported having been physically assaulted during displacement;
- 33% of households interviewed indicated that they have family members who remained in Sudan who will join them as soon as the situation allows;
- 55% of households said they had no intention of returning to Sudan even if the situation improved in the next month;
- 45% of households have school aged children; and of these, 83% have children who were attending schools in Sudan.

Food Distribution

As of 12 May, WFP had distributed food to 20,209 new Sudanese refugees in Ouaddaï and Sila.

Health

Medical consultations: A total of 7,494 medical consultations have been conducted. Acute respiratory infections, malaria and watery diarrhoea are prevalent.

Nutrition: A total of 3,713 children aged 6-59 months have been screened for malnutrition, including 600 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 155 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) which were referred to the relevant services. A mass screening campaign for malnutrition is also underway.

Reproductive health: A total of 39 assisted deliveries were recorded as of 12 May.

Vaccination: MSF started vaccination against measles at the Goungour site on 8 May. A total of 19,100 children have been vaccinated against measles; 13,591 children underwent deworming treatment; and 4,398 children have received vitamin A supplements.

WASH

As of 11 May 2023 partners have carried out the following activities:

- In the arrival sites of Koufroune: three wells were completed and three water tanks were installed. IRC distributes water through a tanker. Over 15,000 people were reached through ongoing awareness raising activities on hygiene promotion.
- In the arrival sites of Borota: one well was completed and one bladder with a 10 m³ capacity was installed. Hygiene promotion awareness activities have begun.
- In Gaga, which is one of the designated relocations sites, four bladder platforms have been built for water storage and the production capacity of boreholes has been tested. A total of three water points with six taps are being prepared; and 400 emergency latrines are being built, 10 of which are completed.

Shelter

Construction is ongoing in the identified relocation sites:

- In Gaga: UNHCR's partners ADES and CRT are working on the construction of 500 family shelters, including nearly 211 shelters with sheet metal that are being completed; a transit centre composed is under construction; and four large structures have been built for registration and storage of core relief items.
- In Goz Amir: 112 family shelters have been completed.

- In Milé and Guereda: technical assessments have been completed and construction of shelters and transit centres began on 13 May.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Am-Dafock, a village situated at the border, is the main crossing point from Sudan to the Central African Republic (CAR). As of 9 May, 6,328 Sudanese refugees (1,684 households), and 3,399 CAR refugee returnees (757 households) had been registered. The majority of them are in Am-Dafock, and sleeping in the open or in school premises. A few families have reached the city of Birao independently.

Several emergency missions have taken place despite challenges in reaching the area, due to its remoteness and the fragile security situation. An emergency team is currently in Am-Dafock

Protection

Cross-border movements monitoring: Some 100 individuals, including Sudanese refugees and CAR refugee returnees, were reported to have arrived from Sudan between 8-10 May, though they have not yet been registered. The majority have come from Nyala and stated having faced several difficulties on the way to Am-Dafock, such as threats by armed men, extortion of goods, physical aggression and sexual violence. Others came from areas closer to the border.

Identification of and assistance to people with specific needs and community empowerment: The UNHCR emergency team identified and referred persons with specific needs for protection counselling or medical assistance, as required.

Eighteen members of the host community structures attended a capacity building session on the role of UNHCR and of the National Commission for Refugees (CNR); on basic notions on gender-based violence and child protection; and on the identification and referral of persons with special needs to available services.

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response: Group discussions took place with women and girls on the risks of GBV and mitigation measures in place, as well as on sexual exploitation and abuse. GBV survivors identified were referred for medical assistance. Individual and group psychosocial support was provided to 10 women and 10 girls.

Education

UNHCR supported UNICEF and the school management in the identification of 482 school aged children who wish to continue schooling.

Food and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

UNHCR and WFP distributed core relief items and food on 8 May in Am-Dafock. The distributions were based on UNHCR registration lists. About 500 CRIs and hygiene kits were distributed. The WFP food items delivered will cover 2 weeks of food needs.

As of 9 May, 2,496 people out of 9,727 arrivals (25%) of the people have benefitted from the distributions.

A third airlift took place on 11 May; it transported 375 kits including kitchen sets, fleece blankets, sleeping mats, jerrycans and buckets.

WASH

Three hand powered pumps are operational with a relatively low flow for the entire host population and the refugees. Additional water points are urgently needed.

Six emergency latrines were built by ICRC at the schools hosting arrivals. There is an urgent need for additional latrines.

A total of 6,400 packs of Aquatab purification tablets provided by UNICEF were distributed. Awareness raising session on the use of the Aquatabs were conducted. The water point management committees were sensitized on supporting WASH activities.

Shelter

UNHCR, CNR and the local authorities have identified an area close to the MINUSCA base, where a community hangar for collective housing will be set up. So far UNHCR, with the support of local partners, finalized the construction of six community hangars.

Health

The health centre is under pressure. Initial daily consultations, 20 per day, have multiplied by 5 and reached 100 consultations per day. UNHCR coached community members and existing protection/peace committees on identifying most severe cases and refer them to the clinic.

Diseases linked to water (diarrhoea) and hygiene (dermatosis), have been reported.

WHO is assessing three suspected cases of measles; at the same time some prevention measures and treatment have started. Isolation of cases, crucial to prevent an outbreak, is a challenge.

There is an urgent need for mosquito nets.

EGYPT

Arrival figures

As of 15 May, 88,645 Sudanese had entered Egypt from Sudan via the two official border crossings, Argeen and Qustul, since 15 April, as reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to UNHCR.

Discussions with the Sudanese community in Aswan indicate that a significant number of people are planning to flee Sudan, likely presenting even greater vulnerabilities compared to the initial wave of arrivals. Additionally, it was noted that many individuals are actively gathering resources to facilitate their departure.

Registration

Over 2,900 newly arrived asylum-seekers, the vast majority of whom are Sudanese nationals, have approached UNHCR in Cairo, seeking international protection since 18 April. UNHCR is providing registration services in Cairo based on their vulnerability profiles and has increased registration capacity to respond to the demand.

Protection

UNHCR partner Caritas conducted two focus group discussions in Aswan and Daraw on 10-11 May, engaging approximately 60 Sudanese individuals who had recently arrived in Egypt. Participants, which included female heads of households, shared details of their arduous journeys to Egypt. They described a dire situation at the Sudanese border, characterized by overcrowding and a lack of essential resources which has led to deaths.

Core relief items

UNHCR, through the Egypt Red Crescent (ERC), is providing emergency assistance at the border. This includes supporting the ERC to scale up the range of services they can offer at the border, including the distribution of water and hygiene items. As of 15 May, UNHCR assistance to the ERC includes a total of 140,800 bottles of water (40,000 1,5L bottles and 100,000 0.6L bottles), 10,000 hygiene kits² and 5,000 packs of sanitary napkins.

² A kit contains a small towel, soap, tissues, wipes, a razor, medical alcohol, and toothbrush with toothpaste

Main needs and gaps

The situation at the Sudanese side of the border remains the key concern at present. The Egyptian authorities have taken the necessary measures to expedite the entry process, although the large numbers of new arrivals remain a challenge in terms of processing capacity. Information gathered from social media indicates that conditions at the Sudanese side of the border are rapidly deteriorating with a lack of water, food, WASH facilities, and speculation on the costs of the buses for crossing the area between the Sudanese and Egyptian borders, all resulting in people being held for long periods of time in dire conditions. ERC reported an increase in medical cases arriving at the border due to the breakdown of the health system in Sudan. To that end, the Ministry of Health and Population has deployed equipped ambulances to the border to assist with health care.

Coordination

UNHCR is strengthening engagement and coordination with partners in the south and border areas, establishing mechanisms for the coordination of the interagency response on the ground, and continuing to engage local authorities and community-based organizations to assess the needs and scope of the response.

UNHCR has led the development of an interagency border Healthcare Provision Tracking Tool to help track health activities and service provision at the border. It includes a list of activities by actor and location and a set of basic monitoring indicators.

Sudan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan

UNHCR and partners are finalizing a **Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan**, which will include the inter-agency response and budget requirements in the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.

In the meantime, a preliminary summary document has been produced to preview the planning figures and overall budget requirements: [*Sudan Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan – Preliminary Summary & Inter-Agency Requirements \(May-October 2023\)*](#)

The planning currently covers an outflow of some **860,000 refugees and returnees from Sudan** and will require an estimated budget of **USD 445 million** to support the displaced from May until October 2023.

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