SUDAN SITUATION

8-15 June 2023

A group of Sudanese women and children in Am Dafock, Central African Republic, waiting to be registered as refugees. ©UNHCR/Xavier Bourgois

Highlights

Deadly clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have continued for two months.

As the situation in Sudan continues to deteriorate, on 13 June, the UN Secretary-General reminded all parties of their obligation to protect civilians and reiterated his call for the SAF and RSF to cease fighting and commit to a durable cessation of hostilities. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan and the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) urged security forces and non-state actors to uphold their duty under international humanitarian law. On 15 June UNITAMS issued a statement condemning the killing of the Governor (Wali) of West Darfur in El Geneina.

UNHCR's June 2023 Protection Brief details a range of protection impacts from the conflict, outlines the protection response to date and includes key advocacy messages. On 15 June, citing the new Protection Brief, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection stated that civilians in Sudan continue to face a litany of human rights violations, abuses and sexual violence. The Assistant High Commissioner reiterated UNHCR's call on all States to keep their borders open for civilians fleeing Sudan and to remove any impediments to entry in order to ensure people – including undocumented individuals – are able to effectively access protection and assistance, mitigate risks of additional violence and exploitation and prevent people from having to resort to the help of smugglers.

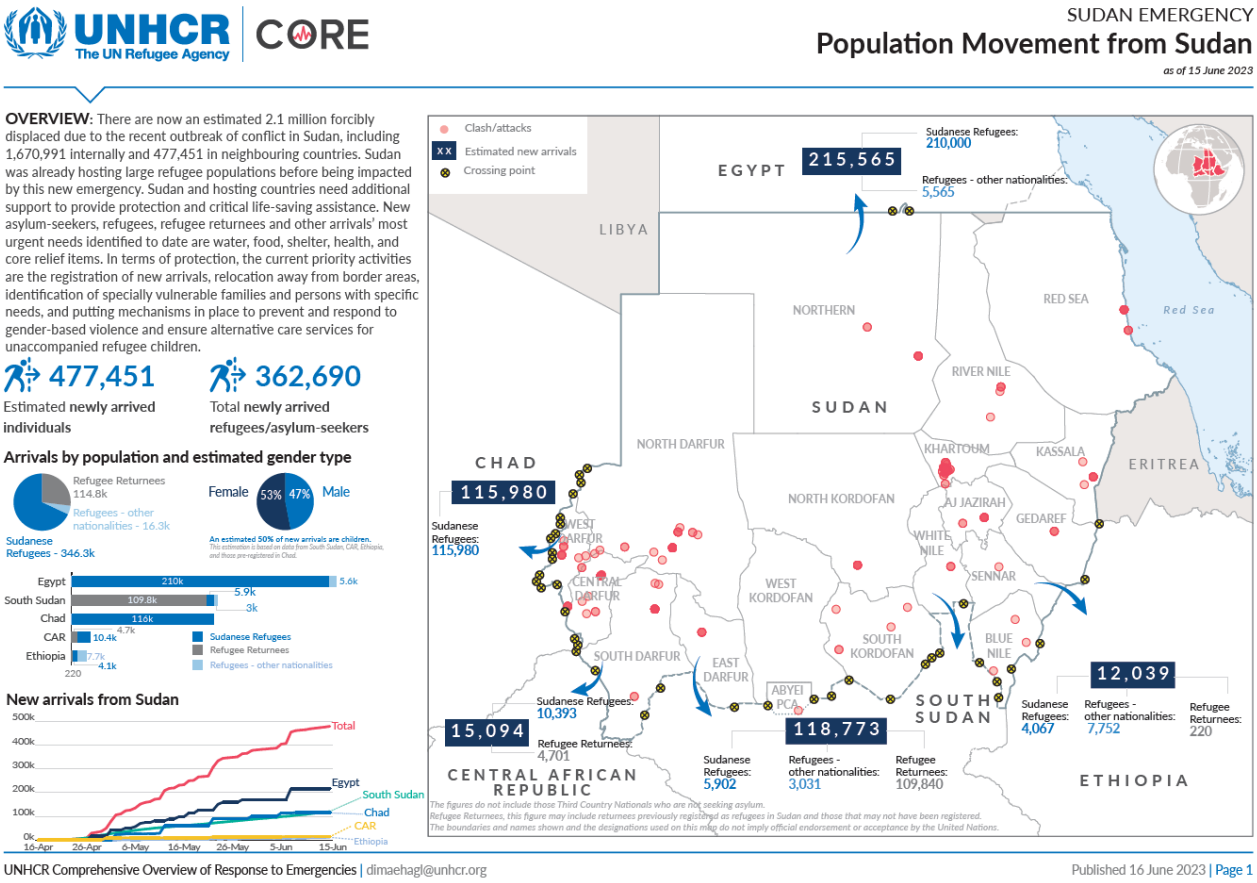
Further to the declaration of a Level 2 emergency for the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Egypt and South Sudan on 17 May 2023, the High Commissioner has designated Mamadou Dian Balde, Director of

UNHCR's Regional Bureau for the East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region, as the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Sudan Situation.

The newly appointed Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Sudan Situation will work closely with UNHCR's Regional Bureaus for the Middle East and North Africa, and West and Central Africa to ensure a cohesive, coherent, and inclusive approach in support of host governments to help respond to refugees' protection and assistance needs. This includes working with stakeholders and partners to support the coordination and continued harmonized development, implementation and monitoring of the Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Sudan Situation, as well as advocating for the necessary resources to respond to the needs.

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
- UNHCR Sudan Dashboard: Overview of refugees and asylum-seekers distribution and movement in Sudan (as of 11 June 2023)
- UNHCR and IOM Joint Dashboard of arrivals to South Sudan now includes 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
- The UNHCR *HELP site for refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan* provides information to individuals seeking information or support inside Sudan (in English and Arabic).



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- In White Nile, as of 11 June, 67,232 South Sudanese who self-relocated from Khartoum and elsewhere have been verified. At the Um Sangour camp, additional land was secured for extension of the site.
- In Gedaref Strong winds and heavy rainfall caused serious damage to a number of key facilities and infrastructure in Tunaydbah refugee camp, including UNHCR's warehouse and compound.
- In Northern state, the estimated 1,200 individuals in the buffer zone between the Sudan and Egypt border dispersed and returned to Wadi Halfa.
- In West Darfur, a scoping mission from Chad involving OCHA, UNHCR and other UN agencies reached Adikong but turned back due to the lack of security assurance from local leaders to move further into Sudan.
- In Khartoum the number of refugee casualties from the attack on Medina Reyadyha area on 4 June has risen to 13.

Updates by location

Khartoum

A new 24-hour countrywide ceasefire was declared on 10 June. This led to a significant reduction in skirmishes, which allowed a large number of the local population in Khartoum to leave the state. However, incidents of looting and facility intrusions continued to be reported. In Darfur, the impact of the ceasefire was felt less, as the armed conflict is taking on more tribal dimensions. The situation remains tense in North, West, and Central Darfur. Following the end of the latest 24-hour ceasefire, clashes have resumed. As a result, the planned movement of supplies from the Khartoum warehouse did not proceed.

Jazirah

UNHCR is conducting an assessment of Fao 5 camp in view of reports that refugees and asylum seekers of various nationalities as well as IDPs have self-relocated to the old refugee camp, where water and health systems need to be rehabilitated.

In Wad Medani, a local organization in partnership with UNFPA started providing psychosocial support to a group of Congolese refugees who self-relocated to Medani following the intensified clashes in Khartoum and deaths of some of their community.

North Darfur

UNHCR commenced the distribution of Non-food Items for 336 households / 2,000 individuals newly displaced as a result of the conflict. The population is living in six schools which have been turned into gathering sites. This distribution is taking place following an interagency assessment mission by partners in El Fasher. The situation remains dire as the IDPs still have urgent needs for water and food.

Outside of El Fasher town, those displaced are still unable to receive any assistance due to the security situation.

South Darfur

In South Darfur, incidents have been reported along the routes leading into/out of Nyala including conflict-related sexual violence. UNHCR also received reports that refugees from the Central African Republic have been accused of being foreign mercenaries despite presenting their documentation.

Northern State

In Wadi Halfa, the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) informed UNHCR that Egyptian authorities will be enforcing visa requirements for all Sudanese individuals irrespective of age or gender, from 10 June. On 10 June, a protest was conducted around the Egyptian Consulate, after consulate authorities informed that all previous applications will be processed under the new regulations. There is an increasing number of arrivals in Wadi Halfa,

mostly from Khartoum, who reported that they did not encounter any challenges in their movement. Many have decided to travel despite not having documentation and despite the new Egyptian visa regulations, as they believe the situation in Khartoum continues to deteriorate further.

In Wadi Halfa, as of 11 June, an estimated 1,200 individuals, mostly women, children, and elderly, were in the buffer zone between Sudan and Egypt after clearing the Sudanese crossing point before Egypt's reversal of visa exemptions took effect. The situation at the buffer zone was tense after some protests were staged against the new regulations. UNHCR supported the provision of water and food by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society to the group waiting at the buffer zone who eventually dispersed and returned to Wadi Halfa where UNHCR provided plastic sheets for the classrooms prepared by local authorities to receive the population.

UNHCR continues to engage displaced communities as part of protection monitoring efforts. These discussions have highlighted that most are still determined to reach Egypt as this was their main purpose of travel to Wadi Halfa. Many are willing to wait for the visa issuance process while some are traveling to Wadi Halfa with no documentation/passports due to limited options to exit Sudan.

Gedaref

Strong winds and heavy rainfall on 9 June caused serious damage to a number of key facilities and infrastructure in Tunaydbah refugee camp, including UNHCR's warehouse and compound. An interagency assessment led by UNHCR was conducted on 10 June to inform the response.

Relocation of refugees and asylum seekers from Um Gulja continues to be undertaken. As of 12 June, 230 were relocated to Tunaydbah and 417 to Um Gargour. Following the relocation of a group of 216 Congolese refugees from Wad Madani to Babikri on 11 June, they expressed that they no longer wish to live in the camp and requested to be accommodated in Gedaref city instead. UNHCR is discussing with Commission of Refugees (COR) and the refugee representatives about possible solutions.

Kassala

Based on reports received from the Commission of Refugees (COR), a number of refugees and asylum seekers have returned to Eritrea or moved to Ethiopia, substantiated by some requests for voluntary repatriation received by UNHCR. The information available suggests that this may be attributed to the deteriorating food security condition in the camps and the overall security in Sudan. However, more assessment is needed.

State security authorities requested COR to respond to the situation of an estimated 8,000 South Sudanese individuals who arrived from Khartoum by assessing the group for documentation and facilitating their movement to Kosti (White Nile State).

Kordofan

The situation in North Kordofan remains tense between the SAF and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement—North (SPLM-N) following clashes.
In West Kordofan, UNHCR through its partner International Aid Services and HAC distributed Non-food Items (NFIs) to 77 IDP households / 471 individuals, newly displaced from Kagawa locality to El Giger village, east of El Fula town. The distribution was successful despite the high risk of looting due to the presence of militia checkpoints along the major roads of Kordofan.

Blue Nile

In Blue Nile, local authorities informed UNHCR that approximately 1,000 Ethiopian refugees have requested support to return to Ethiopia (Benishangul Gumuz region) before the full onset of the rainy season. There have been reports of refugees returning to Ethiopia on their own due to the delays in food assistance and the perceived reduced capacity of humanitarian agencies to provide support. Following a fact-finding mission and advocacy undertaken by UNHCR and COR, a return intention survey among refugees in Camp 6 has been agreed UNHCR continues to stay and deliver in Blue Nile while advocating for any return of refugees to Ethiopia to be safe and voluntary.

White Nile

As of 11 June, 67,232 South Sudanese refugees have been verified, 25% of whom were found to have been previously registered in other states in Sudan before the current conflict. In view of the influx, UNHCR is

advocating with authorities to secure additional land. In Abu Dolou, UNHCR is awaiting the Wali's decree to commence site clearing in the new settlement. In Um Sangour camp, additional land was secured for the extension of the site. In view of the rainy season, flood mitigation works, NFI distribution, and WFP food distribution covering July-August are ongoing.

Port Sudan

Some 529 South Sudanese refugees remain homeless as a result of the host community pushing back on COR plans to establish a gathering site for this group. The Wali of Port Sudan asked COR to offer the group relocation to the camps in White Nile, and COR is in the process of assessing intentions for relocation.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- In Renk, the main priority of the response remains onward transportation. In light of the overcrowding, humanitarian responders are looking at options to extend the transit site and/or open new sites.While the main route out of Renk by boat is still on hold due to the Malakal security situation, an average of 1,400 individuals are still arriving through the Joda border point daily.
- A Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) delegation from Juba comprising UNHCR, IOM, WFP, OCHA, UNICEF, and UNFPA visited Renk and Paloich from 10-12 June. The objective was to develop an action plan to respond to the current realities, which will also contribute to the revision of the reasons plan in July.
- In Maban, a joint team of Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA), UNHCR, ACTED, local community leaders, and representatives of new Eritrean and Sudanese refugees visited the proposed new site in Banashawa Payam at Banchulgo for possible relocation of the refugees currently at Doro.
- In Malakal, UNHCR and partners have resumed their activities at the reception site after the movement restriction was lifted on 12 June, as no security incidents were reported at the site.

Maban (Upper Nile)

Renk

In Renk, the main priority of the response remains onward transportation. In light of the overcrowding, humanitarian responders are also looking at options to extend the transit site and/or open new sites. The rains have created muddy conditions; despite the flooding challenge, services continued to be provided to those in need.

While the main route out of Renk by boat is still on hold due to the Malakal security situation, an average of 1,400 individuals are still arriving through the Joda border point daily. Outside the transit center, more stranded returnees are settling in three informal sites (river site, Zero and Abugabra primary school). Aside from transportation, the most requested services are food, health services and protection.

Paloich

The HCT delegation met with the RRC, humanitarian agencies operating in Paloich and the Melut County Acting Commissioner. RRC requested the humanitarian partners to provide more shelters as the number of returnees keeps increasing by the day, hot meals or readymade food and biscuits, nutritional food for malnourished children, health services, WASH facilities at the transit sites and increased transportation of the returnees to their places of origin. The Acting Commissioner mentioned that a new site has been identified and urged all the returnees to be relocated from the current transit site to the new one as the current transit site is within an oil-production area.

Onward Transportation: From 12-13 June, IOM relocated 106 returnees from Renk to Wau via Paloich. The majority of the relocated returnees are women and children. On 13 June, IOM transported 60 individuals to Juba. This brings the total number of returnees and refugees transported from Paloich to Juba and Wau from 30 May to 10 June, to 3,056 (Juba 2,076/ Wau 980).

Maban

At Doro Camp, 135 households / 557 refugees newly arrived from Blue Nile state and awaiting registration were supported by UNHCR and WFP with 3 days' hot meal food rations.

A joint team of CRA, UNHCR, ACTED, local community leader and representatives of Eritrean and Sudanese refugees visited the proposed new site in Banashawa Payam at Banchulgo for possible relocation of the refugees currently at Doro block D.

23 UNHCR refugee family tents whose owners are still staying at the reception center at block D-Doro Camp (Eritrean and Sudanese refugee zone) were reported vandalized with a number of tent pieces stolen. In addition, a shortage of family tents has affected 1,437 individuals residing in the Reception Center at Doro/ Balila and the Jumjum community centre waiting for relocation. 1,359 new arrivals have so far been relocated to the demarcated plots.

Malakal (Upper Nile)
UNHCR and IOM completed a count of the population at the reception site. A total of 715 households / 3,135 individuals were profiled. UNHCR and partners have resumed activities at the Malakal reception site after the movement restriction was lifted on 12 June, as no security incidents were reported at the site.

JAMJANG (RUWENG Administrative Area)
On 12 June, refugees who entered though the Alel-Liri border crossing reported that many people fleeing the conflict in Sudan are now stuck in Liri which is close to Pamir Refugee Camp. They are reportedly not allowed to cross the border to South Sudan without a signed document from security personnel. They were only allowed passage in case of a medical emergency. No humanitarian assistance is available in Liri. The group also reported rumors that some towns in South Kordofan are under attack and they are anticipating an influx to South Sudan should conflict erupt in Liri.

Bentiu (Unity)
On 13 June, the joint sectoral response commenced the distribution of Shelter/NFIs to the 778 households / 3,890 individuals verified vulnerable returnee families.

UNHCR is following up with local authorities on land/plot allocation to the returnees settling at Rotriak. UNHCR received reports through community feedback mechanisms of some disputes between returnees and local communities.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights
- A total of 3,399 Sudanese nationals have so far been identified as being in need of international protection.
- 714 refugees and asylum seekers were relocated from the Metema border area to the newly established Kumer settlement in the Amhara region. The Metema area continues to experience heavy rains, which has slowed down the development of the Kumer site.
- The government Refugee and Returnee Service has temporarily suspended the joint screening with UNHCR of new South Sudanese arrivals in Gambella, citing the need to ensure priority for refugees who recently fled Sudan rather than unregistered individuals who have been residing in Ethiopia for some time.

Population movements
As of 13 June, 6,553 households / 11,087 individuals (56% Eritreans, 31% Sudanese, and 11% South Sudanese) among those who have crossed into Ethiopia have been screened by RRS and UNHCR and verified as either new asylum-seekers or already recognized refugees in Sudan, including 142 Ethiopian refugee returnees. Of these, 84% crossed through Metema, 9% entered via the Kurmuk border point in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, and 7% through Pagak/Burbiey in the Gambella region. As of 12 June, a total of 3,399 Sudanese nationals had been identified as being in need of international protection. Out of the overall screened population, 36% had previously been registered as refugees in Sudan, before their departure to Ethiopia, while 64% are new asylum seekers.

On 9 June, UNHCR teams in Ethiopia and Sudan discussed the possibility of facilitating the voluntary repatriation of 1,000 Ethiopian refugees from Damazine district, Blue Nile state in Sudan to Guba Woreda/district in Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz region, as requested by the authorities in Sudan. UNHCR is advocating with the authorities to ensure that the area of return is safe and secure so that refugees can return voluntarily in safety and dignity.

Protection

As of 13 June, a total of 148 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were identified at the entry point in Metema. The children and their caregivers were provided with counseling and referred for prioritization for relocation. A total of 222 (136 women and 94 men) persons with specific needs (PSNs) were identified at the same entry point.

UNHCR's partner, Innovative Humanitarian Services (IHS), conducted house-to-house awareness-raising sessions at the Kumer Refugee Site, in the Amhara region, informing 144 of the newly relocated refugees and asylum seekers of the available services. IHS also provided psychosocial support for 117 children and their families at Kumer and at the transit site in Metema.

UNHCR's partner, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church - Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC) distributed dignity kits (containing solar light, sanitary pads, pyjamas, laundry soap, toothbrushes, slippers, comb, powder soap, etc.) to 75 women and girls of reproductive age at the Metema Transit Centre. Community volunteers began offering informal English and French language lessons at the Metema Transit Centre, with 61 children (12 girls) under 14 years attending classes.

At the Metema border point, UNHCR is supporting 477 individuals who were in the pipeline for resettlement and other legal pathways in Sudan, to reactivate their processes. 17 Eritrean families in the same situation are being supported at the Kurmuk border. The overall number of cases being processed for resettlement and family reunification has reached 817.

Health and nutrition

On 13 June, Medical Teams International (MTI) started providing healthcare services at the Kumer site. A total of 32 patients benefitted from specialized consultations: eight children were screened for malnutrition, while three women received family planning services.

An Ethiopian returnee tested positive for cholera at the Metema border, raising concerns that the congestion and poor sanitation heighten the risks of a cholera outbreak and other communicable diseases. The establishment of a cholera treatment centre at the border is being considered, together with strengthened efforts to decongest the border area.

WASH

One block of latrines and showers has been completed and is in use by the newly relocated refugees in Kumer site. UNHCR's partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) is constructing five additional sanitation facilities. IHS began garbage collection and management at the Metema border, with the help of eight community workers who also share community awareness on hygiene and environmental cleaning. This will help improve sanitation and reduce the risk of disease outbreaks.

Site development and shelter

UNHCR and RRS, with support from IOM, began the relocation of new arrivals from the Metema border, with priority being given to the most vulnerable families. They were all provided with Core Relief Items, including blankets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, soap, buckets, and jerricans. From 10 June to 13 June, 714 refugees and asylum seekers were relocated from the Metema border area to the newly established Kumer settlement in the Amhara region.

EGYPT

Highlights

- More than 210,000 Sudanese have fled their country for Egypt since the beginning of the crisis, according to the latest figures from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The number of refugees passing through the Egyptian border from Sudan has dropped significantly since the imposition of new restrictions (details below). From 10 June, anyone wishing to enter Egypt, irrespective of age and gender, must have an Egyptian entry visa. UNHCR teams at the main crossings at Argeen and Qustol have confirmed a drop from thousands to the low hundreds. Most new arrivals are men who have obtained visas in either Wadi Halfa or Port Sudan.

- Prior to the new restrictions, people had rushed to the border to cross in time while making the difficult decision to leave family members behind. Some reportedly abandoned their buses waiting to enter Egypt in an attempt to enter quicker on foot. The crowds behind the border gate and inside the buffer zone include those with serious medical needs and incomplete documentation. UNHCR and its partner the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) succeeded in facilitating serious medical cases for entry but only for those with the correct documentation.
- On 7 June, Egyptian media reported - and later confirmed to UNHCR - that the Cabinet had advanced a new draft law on asylum-seekers providing a larger role for the state in the management of refugee affairs (details below).

Protection

In Cairo, needs continue to rise among new arrivals from Sudan. UNHCR community outreach among the Sudanese community shows that many new arrivals are struggling more to meet their basic needs including housing and food. A fourfold increase in rent in popular areas among the Sudanese community has led to an 80% increase in people approaching UNHCR with housing needs since the onset of the crisis. To assist, UNHCR continues to expedite the roll-out of cash support to new arrivals. Some 951 individuals registered with UNHCR have now received one-time emergency cash support. An additional 2,557 individuals will receive the same amount of assistance in the coming days. 913 newly arrived Sudanese individuals who are not registered with UNHCR have also been assisted with emergency assistance. A further 1,090 individuals have been identified to receive similar assistance shortly. The total number of new arrivals assisted with cash so far is 1,864.

A UNHCR protection team met with Sudanese community leaders in Aswan on 12 June to gather latest information on difficulties faced by new arrivals. Issues reported included exploitation, inability to access residency and its knock-on effect on acquiring a SIM card, lack of recreational activities, and Sudanese children traumatized by their experience fleeing Sudan. UNHCR is working to establish volunteer community networks in Aswan to share information and relay important information on services available to new arrivals.

UNHCR is supporting new Sudanese arrivals in completing their disrupted primary education by paying the exams fees directly to the schools. The Embassy of Sudan has reduced the fees for new arrivals from $130 to $60 per student. The exams are scheduled to take place between 19 and 24 June for 88 children registered in the two Aswan Sudanese community schools, and approximately 320 registered in community schools in Cairo.

Registration

UNHCR has now registered 6,221 individuals out of 18,724 new arrivals from Sudan who have approached the office since the start of the crisis. Almost 90% are Sudanese nationals mostly originating from Khartoum. Egyptian security officials express appreciation for UNHCR's expedited registration efforts. The officials also thanked UNHCR for working with the authorities to help reduce the growing crowds outside the 6 October City office, where non-Syrian nationalities register. The recent accelerated opening of a new refugee reception area in 6 October has helped to significantly reduce crowds as well as tensions with residents. UNHCR acknowledged the authorities' efforts and briefed the officials on plans to further increase registration capacity, including through the identification of new registration premises.

Core Relief Items (CRI)

UNHCR completed the installation of two rub halls in Qustol border crossing. The structures will help UNHCR and its partner the ERC scale up their activities, operationalize information desks, and deliver psychosocial support services, among others. A third rub hall has been installed in the area between the two borders to serve as a space for asylum-seekers to rest due to the long waiting hours prior to admission. In addition, UNHCR has delivered 456,640 water bottles, 87,000 hygiene kits, and 80,000 sanitary napkins to new arrivals, and nine commercial fridges, 15 family tents, 4 rubhalls, 50 office chairs, 30 tablets, and 213 waiting benches to partner ERC.

CAR

Highlights

- Over 15,000 individuals arrived in CAR from Sudan, including about 10,400 Sudanese refugees and 4,700 CAR returnees.
- 7,969 individuals (1,919 households) underwent biometric registration.
- A final relocation site was identified by the authorities close to Birao, and it was given the name of 'Korsi', which in the Kara language means 'welcome'.
- Since the assisted relocation exercise started on 29 May, a total of 536 individuals (154 households) have been relocated to Korsi.
- The impending rainy season will likely prevent facilitated relocation convoys from continuing until heavy rains subside.
- Spontaneous relocations to the new site are expected to continue during the rainy season through the use of light vehicles, and assistance will continue at the site.
- A mission from the UN global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crisis 'Education Cannot Wait' (ECW) is taking place from 12 to 19 June to assess the situation and explore potential responses On 16 June, ECW announced US$2 Million First Emergency Response in the Central African Republic.

Response Overview

Since the beginning of the crisis, an estimated number of 15,069 persons have arrived in CAR from Sudan, including over 10, 368 Sudanese refugees and 4,701 Central African returnees. They are staying with host families or in spontaneous camps, as well as schools in Am-Dafock. The majority (95%) are women and children.

UNHCR and partners continue to provide protection and life-saving assistance to Sudanese refugees and Central African refugees returnees as they arrive. Immediate needs identified include food, shelter, and access to core relief items. A final relocation site has been identified, Korsi, close to Birao, and since the beginning of the relocation exercise on 29 May, a total of 536 individuals were transferred; persons with specific needs were given priority. Convoys have been escorted by MINUSCA and UNHCR staff, and medical personnel are accompanying them. Protection teams including staff from UNHCR, Commission National des Refugies (CNR) and INTERSOS have been present in Am-Dafock and in Birao to oversee departure and arrival of the convoys. While some new arrivals were reluctant to relocate, awareness raising and information-sharing sessions on the importance of relocation to ensure safety and assistance were conducted in Am-Dafock.

Due to the recently started rains, the roads begin to be inaccessible, and thus the assisted relocation exercise may have to be placed on hold until the heavy rains subside. Spontaneous relocations are expected to continue and assistance will be provided at Korsi, where biometric registration continues. Construction works for family and community shelters, latrines and showers, as well as water trucking, are ongoing at the relocation site. Psychosocial support is provided to those in need thanks to the two listening areas that were set up, one at the transit site and one at the final relocation site. Awareness raising sessions on gender-based violence, preventions from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child protection are also taking place. Child friendly spaces are available in Birao and children have been attending them.

Coordination efforts are led by UNHCR in Bangui, in collaboration with the Commission National des Refugies (CNR), and daily coordination meetings are held with local authorities and partners in Am-Dafock and Birao. The UNHCR team, currently present in both Am-Dafock and Birao, will soon relocated to Birao, where an office is being set up.

Registration

- 7,969 persons (1,919 households) underwent biometric registration. Registration is now ongoing at Korsi, the final relocation site in Birao.

Relocation

- The transfer of refugees from the transit site to the final relocation site in Birao, Korsi, started on 9 June.
- As of 14 June, 536 individuals (154 households) have been relocated to the new site.
- The impending rainy season will likely prevent facilitated relocation convoys from continuing until heavy rains subside.

- CNR, with the support of the UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS, has been conducting awareness raising and information sharing sessions in Am-Dafock, on the importance of relocating to ensure safety and assistance.

Protection

- 113 people with special needs have been identified and referred to relevant services
- 115 children attended the Child Friendly Spaces in Birao.
- A network for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), including members of UN agencies and NGOs has been established.
- Two listening areas have been created (one at the transit site, the other at the final relocation site). Individual and community psychosocial support has been provided.
- Phones were made available to refugees to be able to contact their families in Sudan.
- The referral system for multisectoral support of gender-based violence (GBV) survivors in the Vakaga Prefecture was updated.
- Awareness raising session on GBV, Child Protection and available services, including the referral system, took place.
- Awareness raising activities with community members on the transfer to the final site were conducted.
- A youth committee composed of 5 persons was established in Birao, with the aim of voicing the needs and aspiration of the youngsters within the community.

Health and nutrition

- 96% of children have been vaccinated against measles.
- Works are ongoing to set up a health post and mobile clinics at the relocation site.
- Distribution of hot meals to refugees continue at the relocation site.

WASH

- Water trucking, by MSF-Spain, is ongoing.
- 24 taps are connected to the water bladder installed by Triangle.
- 65 latrine and shower blocks are completed at the relocation site.
- Awareness raising activities on hygiene practices and on the use of latrines are ongoing.

Education

- Aiming at ensuring access to education for refugee children, UNHCR met with the Regional Director of the Regional Pedagogical Center (CPR) and with the Director of the Nguerendomo school in Birao.
- An Education Cannot Wait mission will take place from 12 to 19 June. The delegation will work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education to ensure that school-aged refugee children can regain access to a protective, inclusive and quality education as soon as possible.

Shelter

- 170 shelters were allocated to families, out of the 220 shelters built as of June 12 in Korsi, Birao.
- Digging of drainage channels is ongoing to minimize effects of the rain.
- A UNHCR office is being established in Birao.

Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- As of 12 June, 528 individuals (152 households) relocated in Korsi, Birao received CRIs.
- 78 hygiene kits have been distributed at the Korsi listening centre.

CHAD

Highlights

- As of 12 June, a total of 115,980 Sudanese refugees, who have arrived in Chad in search for safety and protection since the beginning of the crisis in Sudan, have been counted.
- The refugees' relocation exercise, to safer areas away from the border, continues despite the logistical challenges posed by the continues rains of the last few days.
- As of 12 June, a total of 17,327 refugees (4,540 households) have been relocated to existing camps where extensions and construction of basic amenities are ongoing to ensure they can accommodate new arrivals.

- Over 3,157 emergency shelters have been constructed in the exiting camps so far.
- Humanitarian aid, including food and medical supplies for health centres, is being pre-positioned at the borders sites of Adré, Borota (Ouaddaï province) and Ademour (Sila province) for refugees who may not be relocated before the rainsworsen heavier.
- A new measles vaccination campaign, organized by the Adré Health District with the support from MSF France, is underway at the Borota site in Ouadda.

Response Overview

UNHCR is working closely with the Chadian authorities and partners to meet the needs of the Sudanese refugees who fled violence in their country and are seeking safety and protection in Chad. As of 12 June, and since the crisis began in Sudan, 115,980 new arrivals were counted, across the various arrival sites within the Ouaddai Sila, and Wadi Fira provinces. The majority of the arrivals are women and children. To ensure safety of the refugees, relocation from the arrival sites to more secure areas, has begun on 15 May and is ongoing. As of 12 June, a total of 52 convoys were organized to relocate 17,327 persons to already existing camps (Gaga, Farchana, Mile, Kounougou, Goz Amir, Djabal, Iridimi), where expansion works and construction of basic amenities are underway to accommodate new arrivals. Two additional relocation sites were identified (Arkoum and Zabout), and new camps are being setup, aiming at starting relocation as soon as possible. Awareness raising sessions on gender-based violence and prevention from sexual exploitation and abuse are ongoing in the relocation's camps. At the sites where refugees arrive, awareness raising sessions emphasize the importance of relocation to ensure safety and protection, as well as the urgency to relocate before the rains worsen. The interagency protection monitoring system – Project 21 – continues across several villages in the Ouaddai and Wadi Fira provinces. Core relief items and food distribution are ongoing. Various organizations, including UNHCR, IRC, LMI, WHO, UNICEF, WFP and others, are actively involved in providing health, nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. Medical consultations are being conducted in arrival sites through the use of mobile clinics, children have been screened for malnutrition, and the national polio vaccination campaign has started. A measles vaccination campaign also started in Borota, Ouaddai province. In the Ouaddai province health services are being strengthen and cholera prevention activities have been carried out.

Relocation

As of 12 June, 17,327 individuals (4,540 households) were relocated, through 52 convoys:

- 10,355 persons were relocated to Gaga and Farchana camps, in the Ouaddai province
- 4,158 persons were relocated to Iridimi, Milé and Kounoungou camps, in the Wadi Fira province
- 2,814 were relocated to Goz Amir and Djabal camps, in the Sila province

Protection

- Awareness raising sessions on the importance of relocation to ensure safety and protection took place in at Koufroun, Labane Dafak and Midjiguilta sites. A total of approximately 1,500 persons participated.
- Focus groups discussions on gender-based violence prevention were organized in Farchana camp, in collaboration between UNHCR, the PSEA inter-agency coordinator and the office of the Resident Coordinator. The discussion included four groups of 10 person each: (i) men; (ii) women; (iii) teenagers; (iv) girls.
- UNHCR, its implementing partner HIAS, and UNFPA conducted a training on individual gender-based violence and child protection case management targeting actors working in the response. A total of 35 participants, including 17 women, participated.
- The interagency protection monitoring systems – Project 21 – continues and as of 8 June, a total of 2,411 households were interviewed across several villages in the Wadi Fira and Ouaddai provinces. The interviewed households reported the following:
  - 62% have no intention to return to Sudan even if the situation improves in the coming month;
  - 63% feel unsafe in the streets due to possible exposure to gender-based violence risks;
  - 10% of households interviewed said that children are exposed to risks such as physical aggression and early marriage.
- A protection assessment mission, including several UN agencies, national and international NGOS, took place in Gaga camp at the end of May. A total of seven group discussions were conducted, including 83

participants of various ages and gender. The main concerns identified were: the risk of tensions between new refugees, old refugees, and host communities; the risk of gender-based violence women may face when fetching wood and when using latrines at night; the need to enhance communication on available services and to reinforce them; family separation; children dropping out of school; lack of civil status documents.

Child Protection and Education

- Since the start of the emergency 28 mass awareness raising sessions on child protection related issues have reached 5,631 people in the Ouaddai and Sila provinces.
- Psychosocial support is provided and recreational activities are carried out in 8 child friendly spaces. So far 1,173 children, including 668 girls, were targeted.
- To support the UNHCR team and partners in the field, 3 guides related to (i) the monitoring of activities, (ii) to child protection programmes and (iii) the registration of children, with a particular focus on children with special needs, including unaccompanied and separated ones, were shared. Additionally, the six grave violations against children in times of war have been shared to be included in the monitoring reporting system.
- Between 29 may and 4 June, JRS visited Kounoungou and Mile, Wadi Fira provinces, to meet newly arrived refugee children. An awareness session on the importance of education was conducted and targeted 954 new arrivals, including 698 women. A total of 298 pupils (171 girls and 127 boys) received a school kit each, including notebooks, pens. The kits will be used to prepare for tests to check the level of their education prior to their enrolment for the next school year.

Core Relief Items (CRI)

- As of 12 June, a total 17,000 refugee households have received CRI kits including blankets, mats, buckets, jerrycans, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, solar lamps and soap.
- 259 relocated households received CRIs upon arrival in Djabal (Sila province)
- 310 relocated households received CRIs upon arrival in Iridimi (Wadi Fira province)

Food distribution

- As of 13 June, a total of 97,969 new arrivals have received food assistance from WFP: 63,662 in Ouaddai, 29,870 in Sila and 4,437 in Wadi Fira.
- As of the beginning 12 June, UNHCR, through its partner CRT, has provided more than 16,700 refugees with hot meals during their relocation exercise.

Health and nutrition

In the East of Chad UNHCR, with the support of its partners IRC and ADES, and with WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, MSF France and MSF Holland, Première Urgence International (PUI), ALIMA, and UNFPA are active in the health and nutrition sectors. As of 5 June:

- 17,521 medical consultations were conducted
- 8,596 children were screened for malnutrition
- 90 deliveries were assisted
- A new measles vaccination campaign, organized by the Adré Health District with the support from MSF France, is underway at the Borota site, Ouaddai. As of 11 June, a total of 7,992 children have been vaccinated. Measles vaccination is planned to take place also in Ademou, Sila province.

WASH

In the East of Chad UNHCR, with the support of its partners IRC, LMI, SECADEV, and with UNICEF, CARE, FLM, World Visions, ACF, ADRA, OXFAM and HELP TCHAD are working to improve WASH services. A total of 438 latrines and 13 boreholes were constructed across the three provinces where refugees are arriving:

- Wadi Fira province:40 latrines and shower blocks were constructed in Mile and Kounoungou camps
- Ouaddai province: 254 latrines and showers blocks were constructed in the Gaga and Farchana camps

- Sila province:144 latrines and showers blocks were constructed in Goz Amir and Djabal camps

Shelter and infrastructures

In the East of Chad UNHCR, with the support of its partners ADES and CRT, and with CARE and ACTED are working to enhance the capacity of the relocation camps. Over 3,157 shelters have been constructed in the exiting camps, as well as 17 community hangars:

- Wadi Fira province: 397 emergency shelters were set up in Mile and Kounoungou camps, out of 600 planned
- Ouaddai province: 2,260 shelters have now been completed in Gaga and Farchana camps, out of 3,200 planned
- Sila province: 500 shelters were constructed in Djabal and Goz Amir camps
- Works for the preparation of the two new camps, Arkoum (Ouaddai) and Zabout (Sila), are ongoing.

Contacts – Joyce Munyao-Mbithi - Senior Donor Relations Officer, Regional Bureau for the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (munyao@unhcr.org); Kabami Kalumiya - Reporting Officer, Regional Bureau for the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (kalumiya@unhcr.org).