SUDAN SITUATION

30 June – 6 July 2023

UNHCR registration centre in Cairo. Iman, 35, mother of three, Arrived from Khartoum on the 19th of May. Iman left her husband behind in Khartoum because his papers were not ready and lost all contact with him. Credit: UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

Highlights

The security situation in Sudan remains tense and volatile, particularly in Khartoum, Darfur, and Kordofan where clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continue.

In Central Darfur, violence has continued, with OHCHR reporting of serious human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, torture, and sexual violence. In South Darfur, the security situation also remains tense following clashes on 1 July. In South Kordofan State, clashes between SAF and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement—North (SPLM-N) continue to be reported while clashes between SAF and SPLM-N renewed in Blue Nile State after a period of calm.

In a press release on 4 July, UNHCR expressed its deep concern and condolences to affected families following confirmation that on 25 June, 28 refugees hosted by Sudan were killed in Khartoum when the area in which they lived was engulfed by the fighting, with additional refugees injured in the incident. The statement urges Sudan's warring parties to allow safe passage for civilians seeking to flee from conflict zones.

SUDAN EMERGENCY

Population Movement from Sudan

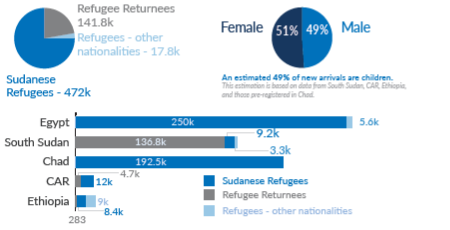
as of 05 Jul 2023

OVERVIEW: There are now an estimated 2.9 million forcibly displaced due to the recent outbreak of conflict in Sudan, including 2,231,523 internally and 631,608 in neighbouring countries. Sudan was already hosting large refugee populations before being impacted by this new emergency. Sudan and hosting countries need additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance. 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, relocation away from border areas, identification of specially vulnerable families and persons with specific needs, and putting mechanisms in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and ensure alternative care services for unaccompanied refugee children.

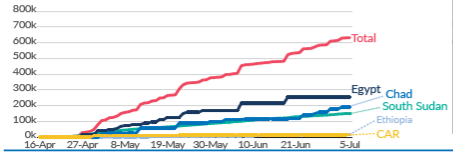
631,608
Estimated newly arrived individuals

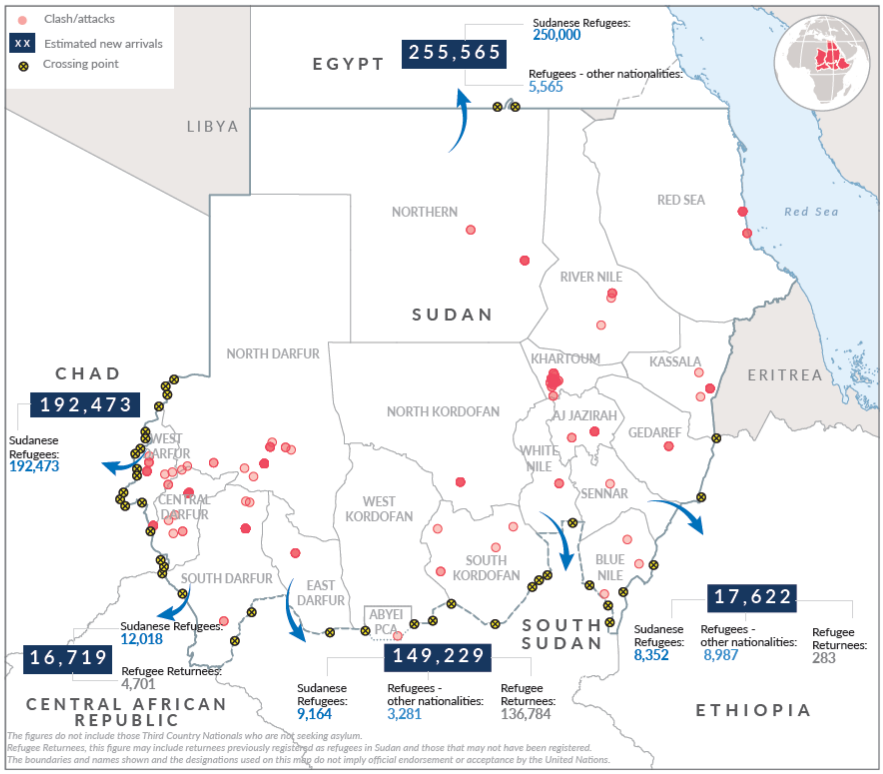
489,840
Total newly arrived refugees/asylum-seekers

Arrivals by population and estimated gender type



New arrivals from Sudan





UNHCR Comprehensive Overview of Response to Emergencies | dimaehagl@unhcr.org

Published 06 Jul 2023 | Page 1

Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- According to the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), as of 28 June, approximately 2,231,523 individuals had been displaced internally since 15 April as a result of the conflict.
- UNHCR NFI stocks which were airlifted have arrived in Port Sudan and are pending final inspection before being dispatched to various locations in the country.
- In Gedaref, UNHCR, the Commission of Refugees (CoR) and local law enforcement are working to de-escalate rising tensions between Congolese and Ethiopian refugees in Babikri and met with refugee representatives in the camp on 1 July.
- In White Nile, where an estimated 144,000 South Sudanese have self-relocated from Khartoum and other conflict-affected areas, adding to the pre-crisis refugee population of some 285,000 refugees residing in nine camps, local authorities have given clearance for a new refugee settlement to be established in Abu Dolou.
- In West Darfur, the condition of the road between El Geneina and Chad reportedly remains insecure with some civilians continuing to be prevented from crossing the border to Chad.

Updates by location

Darfur
Options to deliver food assistance to refugees in Al Lait settlements in North Darfur continue to be explored with the food security situation continuing to deteriorate there and across the Darfur states.

Gedaref
UNHCR, the Commission of Refugees (CoR) and local law enforcement are working to de-escalate rising tensions between Congolese and Ethiopian refugees in Babikri and met with refugee representatives in the camp on 1 July. The Ethiopian refugees voiced concerns that the presence of the newly relocated Congolese refugees has put a strain on services in the camp, particularly WASH facilities. UNHCR protection team is working with COR to scale up community awareness and mobilization toward peaceful co-existence and dispute resolution.

Some self-organized return movements to Ethiopia have been reported, mostly from Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba camps. According to the refugee community, this follows announcements from the Ethiopian government of job opportunities back home.

White Nile
UNHCR and the Ministry of Health conducted a mortality investigation in Alagaya Camp which found child deaths in camps attributed to measles and underlying malnutrition and other infections. The shortage of essential medicines is affecting the delivery of health services.

Northern State
In Wadi Halfa, through protection monitoring exercises, UNHCR has identified a number of persons with specific needs and will engage other agencies including the Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) to address their concerns. UNHCR is also coordinating with the HAC and local authorities regarding the accommodation of refugees who recently arrived. HAC and the authorities have identified some gathering sites where refugees from various countries of origin can be accommodated.

Red Sea State
In Port Sudan, the number of gathering sites has gone down to 10 through consolidation efforts, although the overall number of IDPs are increasing. UNHCR is looking into provision of support to gathering sites to help the affected population cope with extreme weather conditions.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Highlights
- The Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) and UNHCR's partner INTERSOS will soon deploy staff in Am-Dafock to conduct border and protection monitoring and continue sharing information with arrivals on the importance of relocation to the Korsi site to ensure safety and assistance.
- As of 4 July, a total of 1,073 individuals (461 households) have relocated to Korsi; of which 72 per cent are women and 53 per cent are children. Self-organized relocations continue.
- A community meeting was organized to celebrate the Muslim feast of Tabaski (Eid Al-Adha) bringing together over 400 people from the refugee and host communities.

Response Overview
Since the beginning of the crisis, an estimated number of 15,335 persons have arrived in CAR from Sudan, including 10,634 Sudanese refugees and 4,701 Central African returnees. The majority (95%) are women and children, who upon arrival stayed with host families, or in makeshift shelter and in schools in Am-Dafock, Vakaga region, where UNHCR and partners provided protection and life-saving assistance.

Due to the volatile security situation at the border, a relocation site, Korsi, was identified, close to the town of Birao, at about 65Km from Am-Dafock. Relocation started on 29 May, and to date a total of 1,073 individuals (461 households) have settled at the Korsi site. As the roads to Am-Dafock have become impassable due to the rains, the assisted relocation exercise has been temporarily placed on hold, though self-organized relocations continue. Assistance continues to be provided at the Korsi site, where construction works for family and community shelters, latrines and showers are ongoing. Biometric registration continues; a listening centre was established in Korsi

and individual and community psychosocial support is provided. Awareness raising sessions on gender-based violence, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child protection are also taking place. Coordination efforts are led by UNHCR in collaboration with the Commission National des Réfugiés (CNR).

Registration

- In Korsi, UNHCR continues to support CNR to enhance monitoring and registration mechanisms for new arrivals.
- Registration also continues for groups of refugees in Ndele and Sam-Ouandja.

Relocation

- As of 4 July, 1,073 individuals (461 households) have been relocated to the Korsi site.

Protection

- 24 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were identified by CNR, INTERSOS and UNHCR: their situation is being assessed to find the best temporary solution for them; counselling sessions took place with them and their host families.
- Psychosocial support and recreational activities, such as sport events, drawing and dancing were organized and over 160 children participated.
- INTERSOS conducted two group counselling sessions with 30 women on conflict-related family separation; and group activities such as knitting and embroidery targeted over 230 women and girls.
- UNHCR facilitated trainings on protection and border monitoring for 12 INTERSOS and CNR staff, who will soon be deployed to Am-Dafok.
- Discussions are ongoing to establish refugee committees to enhance coordination and participation throughout all the phases of the response.
- UNHCR, CNR, INTERSOS and NOURRIR will conduct a community assessment to identify protection risks around basic social services, such as water points.

Health and Nutrition

- 674 patients, including 305 children, received medical care from UNHCR's partner NOURRIR.
- 178 refugee children were vaccinated as part of the ongoing polio vaccination campaign.
- Sensitization campaigns and community mobilization for the national measles vaccination campaign is ongoing at the Korsi site.
- The first baby was born at the Korsi site on 2 July.

Food and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- A food and core relief items distribution was completed for 376 new arrivals (171 households).

Education

- In coordination with UNICEF, temporary teaching spaces (tents of 72m2), school-inbox kits (480 children), recreation kits (500 children) and early childhood development kits (200 children) were provided.

WASH

- Through water trucking a total of 30,000 litres of water per day are delivered at the Korsi site.
- The National Agency for Water and Sanitation (ANEA) and UNHCR's partner NOURRIR will begin drilling for water in the next few days.
- 66 latrines and 66 showers were completed at the Korsi site by NOURRIR.

Shelter

- 373 new shelters were completed in Korsi by NOURRIR.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs and of National Reconciliation, namely through the Projet d'Appui et de Reintgration (PARET), conduct post-return monitoring in Birao, and as of 4 July 452 spontaneous returnees (165 households) were registered.

CHAD

Highlights

- As of 4 July, a total of 192,473 refugees have been counted among the reported arrival to Eastern Chad since the beginning of the crisis in Sudan. As of 25 June, it was estimated by IOM that 38,100 Chadian migrants have returned from Sudan.
- The influx in Adre (Ouaddai) continues every day. As of 4 July, a total of 63,348 refugees had been counted there, out of the total counted population. The humanitarian situation in the city of Adre is critical, and rapid and intense mobilization of stakeholders is crucial to ensure an appropriate response, particularly in the health and water and sanitation (WASH) sectors.
- The relocation of refugees from border sites to the extension areas of existing camps and to the newly established ones is ongoing. To date, 53,889 people have been relocated.

Relocation

As of 3 July, a total of 53,889 individuals (13,905 households) were relocated with the support of UNHCR and its partners CNARR, CRT, IRC, CIAUD, AIRD, and Les Forces Françaises au Tchad.

- 24,340 refugees were relocated to existing camps in Ouaddaï (Gaga, Farchana), Sila (Djabal, Goz Amir), and Wadi Fira (Mile, Kounoungou, and Iridimi).
- 16,106 refugees were relocated to the new camp in Zabout (Sila).
- 12,041 refugees were relocated in the new camp of Arkoum (Ouaddaï).
- 1,402 refugees are temporarily staying at the Ambilia transit centre (Ouaddaï).

Registration

Biometric registration for new refugees relocated to Gaga camp is ongoing, and as of 4 July, a total of 7,744 people (2,101 households) has been registered by CNARR and UNHCR; of those 57% are women, 43% are men, and 64% of the total registered population are minors. Additionally, 24% of the registered population has special needs and include women at risk, single parents, children at risk, elderly, separated children, person living with disabilities.

Protection

As of 30 June, a total of 2,805 households had been interviewed as part of the Inter-agency Protection Monitoring system - Project 21. Data was collected across several villages in the villages located in the Ouaddaï, Wadi-Fira and Sila provinces. The interviewed households reported the following:

- 33% wish to receive information on available services and 24% on how to access them – in this regard awareness raising and information sharing on available services continue.
- Priority needs identified by those interviewed were: cooking utensils (15%), sleeping equipment (15%), household items (14%), personal hygiene items (13%), building materials (13%), solar lamps/torches (11%), clothes (11%), and wood/gas (10%) are prioritized needs of refugees.
- 86% of households interviewed have children who attended school before flying to Chat, thus the importance of supporting the authorities in meeting the educational needs the Sudanese refugee children, through enhancing already existing facilities, training and recruiting new teachers.

Gender-based violence

Numerous awareness-raising activities on GBV were carried out at spontaneous arrival sites and camps by UNHCR and its partners HIAS and IRC, together with other response partners. During those activities 39 GBV survivors were identified and referred for medical and psychosocial support. Nearly 6,000 people were reached across the three provinces of Ouaddai, Wafi Fira and Sila. In Adre (Ouaddai).

Food and Core Relief items (CRIs)

- As of 4 July, 142,639 refugees, Chadian migrant returnees, and vulnerable people from host communities have received food from WFP: 99,422 in Ouaddaï, 36,798 in Sila and 6,419 in Wadi Fira.
- As of 2 July, UNHCR and its partner CRT provided hot meals to 47,994 refugees during their relocation from various spontaneous arrival sites to the camps in eastern Chad.

- On 29 June, hot meals were also offered to approximately 350 new arrivals recently relocated to the Iridimi camp (Sila) by the Sudan Volunteer Organization (SVO). This assistance was initiated as part of the will to strengthen peaceful cohabitation between new and old refugees.

Health and nutrition

In Eastern Chad, the Health and Nutrition response is carried out by UNHCR and its partners IRC and ADES, along with a variety of additional response partners.

Seventeen mobile clinics are operational at the spontaneous border arrival sites and at the Zabout camp (Sila). Since emergencies began:

- 26,338 medical consultations were carried out.
- 17,990 children have been screened for malnutrition, of which 3,303 cases were treated for moderate acute malnutrition and 1,095 for severe acute malnutrition.
- 218 deliveries were assisted.
- 48,572 children have been vaccinated against measles.

In recent weeks, several thousand people have arrived in Adre (Ouaddaï), some of whom were injured. Currently, 2,034 injured cases in Adre are being treated by MSF France and Première Urgence, and eight cases have been referred to the Hadjer Hadid Health District (Ouaddaï).

In addition to general food distribution, to prevent malnutrition, WFP supported 5,306 children and 2,527 pregnant and lactating women.

Shelter and infrastructures

In Eastern Chad, the WASH, shelter, and infrastructure response activities are carried out by UNHCR and its partners CRT, ADES, INTERSOS, IRC, LMI, SECADEV, together with other response partners.

Since the beginning of the crisis the following has been achieved:

- 6,463 family shelters and 96 hangars were constructed across the extension areas of the already existing camps and in the new established ones.
- 863 latrines and showers were built, and 14 boreholes are operational out of the 17 that have been drilled across the already existing camps and in the new established ones.
- On 3 July, 4,000 aqua tabs were distributed in the extension areas of the Goz-Amir camp (Sila).
- Tanker trucks with bladders are available in Arkoum, one of the newly established camps.
- 18 family sheds and four rub-halls, as well as 20 latrine and shower blocks are ready at the Ambilia transit centre; and two water tanks on a truck are available.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- In Gambella, the security situation in the region remains tense due to continued inter-communal violence. The resulting movement restrictions are impeding UNHCR's ability to monitor the entry points and camps receiving new arrivals.
- In Kurmuk (Genshangul Gumuz region), registration of the estimated 5,000 asylum-seekers who arrived recently due to clashes in Sudan's Blue Nile State is ongoing at the border with over 1,300 people registered and relocated to the transit site so far. UNHCR's partner, GOAL is providing hot meals to the new arrivals at the transit centre, where basic services are available
- In Metema (Amhara region), during a protection monitoring exercise, asylum-seekers raised a myriad of challenges. Some Sudanese youth expressed frustration with difficult living conditions and the lack of prospects for transfer to other countries. Eritrean refugees also expressed discontent with the lack of information on the status of their resettlement cases and inability to travel to Addis Ababa.

Operational response

Population movements

As of 4 July, 11,100 households / 19,292 individuals (40% Eritreans, 51.5% Sudanese, and 6.7% South Sudanese) had been screened by the Refugee & Returnee Service (RRS) and UNHCR and verified as new asylum-seekers/refugees and already recognized refugees in Sudan, including 285 Ethiopian refugee returnees. Of these, 78% crossed through Metema in the Amhara region, 18.1% entered via the Kurmuk border point in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, and 4.2% through Pagak/Burbiey in the Gambella region. Out of the overall screened population, 25% had previously been registered as refugees in Sudan before their departure to Ethiopia, while 75% are new asylum seekers. A total of 9,944 Sudanese nationals have so far been identified as needing international protection.

Protection

During a protection monitoring exercise, asylum-seekers in Metema raised a myriad of challenges with UNHCR, calling for urgent attention. Some Sudanese youth expressed frustration with difficult living conditions and the lack of prospects for transfer to other countries. They hinted that they would rather return to Sudan than remain in the conditions offered in Metema. Eritrean refugees also expressed discontent with the lack of information on the status of their resettlement cases and inability to travel to Addis Ababa.

The asylum-seekers also complained about the insufficient quantity and quality of food, especially for babies and lactating mothers, limited shelter and CRI provisions, lack of opportunities for education and work as well as insufficient lighting, which is preventing women and girls in particular from using toilets at night. To date, only eight solar streetlights have been installed at Kumer. UNHCR is following up with relevant partners to address some of the concerns as much and soon as possible within funding constraints.

Health and nutrition

Basic health services are provided at the Metema entry point, transit centre and at Kumer site. However, there is no partner providing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in all three sites, which is presenting a serious challenge. The absence of an ambulance for transporting patients, shortage of medicine and the lack of blanket supplementary feeding products for children and other vulnerable people are additional outstanding issues requiring urgent attention.

Site development and shelter

From 10 June (when the relocation started) to 1 July, 6,433 refugees and asylum-seekers were relocated from the Metema border area to the Kumer settlement, with Persons with Special Needs (PSN) being prioritized. They are receiving basic assistance and services, including protection, health, and WASH. So far,1,095 family tents have been pitched, sheltering 5,700 people, while the rest are temporarily accommodated in communal shelters. The site's original maximum capacity of 7,000 people is almost reached, and UNHCR, the government partner RRS and the local authorities are working to expand it to accommodate an additional 2,000 people.

Additionally, 1,014 of the 2,139 refugees who arrived via Kurmuk were relocated to Sherkole refugee camp in Benishangul Gumuz region.

EGYPT

Highlights

- The number of new arrivals through the border crossings of Arqeen and Qoustol has decreased since the application of tighter entry measures, although border traffic at Qoustol crossing has increased since Eid.
- UNHCR conducted a three-day training for 14 military officers from the Moral Affairs and Media Section at Egyptian Ministry of Defense (MoD).
- UNHCR has provided pre-registration appointments for 15,154 newly arrived households and the office in Alexandria has started registering Sudanese new arrivals.
- UNHCR and the Ministry of Education (MoE) concluded a joint three-day mission to Aswan and the surrounding areas.

Latest developments

The number of new arrivals through the border crossings of Arqeen and Qoustol has decreased since the application of tighter entry measures starting 10 June (more details can be found in the two previous Updates). UNHCR conducted 22 border monitoring missions to Arqeen and Qoustol during the month of June 2023, where a substantial decrease in the number of arrivals was observed after 10 June. Between 1-9 June, some 25,500 Sudanese crossed into Egypt through Qoustol and Arqeen, while the total figure for the period 10-30 June was of some 7,300 individuals, showing a decrease of some 86% in the average number of daily entries through Qoustol and Arqeen since the enactment of the 10-June regulations. UNHCR continues to observe and monitor reports of visas being issued faster for women, children below 16 and men above 50 from the Egyptian consulates in Wadi Halfa and Port Sudan, compared to men of other age groups.

Border traffic is however on the increase since Eid. On 4 July, UNHCR learned from the border authorities at Qoustol crossing, that some 480 individuals were processed for entry on the day, of whom the majority are Sudanese. This represents a notable increase compared to the traffic reported at the border during and immediately prior to the Eid holiday. UNHCR also observed heavy traffic of commercial trucks parked in a line that stretches for around 5 kilometres outside of the Qoustol border crossing. According to the border authorities, many drivers left their trucks after reserving their spot in the processing line, to celebrate Eid. They are expected to return to their trucks in the coming days.

Protection

Between 20 – 22 June, UNHCR conducted a three-day training for 14 military officers from the Moral Affairs and Media Section at Egyptian Ministry of Defense (MoD). The training covered UNHCR's mandate and principles of international protection, the definition of a refugee, the principle of non-refoulement and non-penalization of irregular entry, the refugee model, and key protection considerations in mixed movement. A total of seven capacity-building activities with the Egyptian MoD have been planned for 2023, with the aim of raising awareness of refugee protection.

Capacity building for different actors involved in the emergency response was and still is amongst the key priorities in Aswan where UNHCR, in collaboration and coordination with other UN agencies, national and international NGOs, completed the Community Based Organizations (CBO) mapping exercise that has allowed for the identification of nine CBOs that would be supported with various equipment items needed. UNHCR jointly with UNFPA also delivered a training on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse for the members of the inter-Sector coordination group in Aswan.

Registration

As of 5 July, UNHCR has provided pre-registration appointments for 15,154 newly arrived households (32,116 individuals) of whom 7,336 households (15,617 individuals) have been registered. This surpasses registration targets, attributed to increased internal and deployed staffing, data set minimization, simplified processes, and extended registration hours. According to Registration data, over 93% are Sudanese, followed by South Sudanese and Eritreans. Some 60% are female-headed households.

UNHCR's office in Alexandria has started registering Sudanese new arrivals, who are increasingly approaching the Office and Infoline for registration appointments. Since the start of the crisis in Sudan, some 634 new registration appointments (for 1,732 Individuals) have been scheduled by the office in Alexandria for new arrivals from Sudan. Of these, 120 families have been prioritized due to their heightened protection risks. The Infoline in Alexandria is currently receiving some 60 inquiries per day, compared to a daily average of 12 inquiries before the crisis. Out of these, some 38% are for new registration appointments.

Requests from Sudanese nationals to get their files reopened continue, as the current prevailing conditions in Sudan prevent them from returning. UNHCR has received over 450 file reopening requests from Sudanese. The Office is streamlining reopening processing and is currently screening cases, prioritizing persons with specific needs and other vulnerabilities. To date, UNHCR has reopened 25 cases (47 individuals) — mainly those in detention. Sudanese with closed files have shared the difficulties they are facing to access residency and education services, given their lack of registration with UNHCR. They have also stated the lack of legal status makes them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, and unable to easily access basic services.

Since mid-June, the daily average of registration appointments issued via Infoline has been consistently high, with an average of 390 registration appointments a day last week. This is consistent with previous averages of 400 appointments issued daily for the period 18-22 June, and the 349 appointments issued daily for the period 11-15

June. This trend also demonstrates a stabilization of number of registration appointments being issued via Infoline which, during the initial three weeks of the Sudan crisis, were effectively doubling each week.

Cash assistance

UNHCR continues to provide one-off emergency cash assistance to registered and unregistered new arrivals from Sudan.

As of 5 July, since the start of the Sudan conflict, a total of 13,088 registered and unregistered individuals (4,728 families) have been identified by UNHCR as eligible for the emergency cash assistance among whom 8,927 individuals (3,253 families) have already been assisted. Some 2,688 unregistered families (8,132 individuals) were assessed by UNHCR partner, Caritas, for eligibility for emergency cash assistance via assessments in Aswan, Greater Cairo, and Alexandria – 73% of these were female-headed households.

Around 61% of the assessed unregistered families (1,630 families, 5,299 individuals) were found eligible for emergency cash. As of 5 July, 978 unregistered families (3,162 individuals) have already been assisted through Egypt Post Office and the remaining are in the pipeline. 3,098 eligible registered cases (7,789 individuals) have been identified to receive emergency cash assistance and 1,081 cases (2,431 individuals) have already been assisted; the remainder is currently being assisted.

Education

UNHCR and the Ministry of Education (MoE) concluded a joint three-day mission to Aswan and the surrounding areas. During the mission, UNHCR and the MoE assessed public schools in Aswan, Kom Ombo, Idfu, Daraw, and Nasr El Nuba areas. A total of 25 schools with a high density of Sudanese refugees and nationals were identified as requiring support in and around Aswan.

Each visited school had an average of around 20 to 25 Sudanese refugee children awaiting school enrolment. The enrolment process is ongoing and will continue until the end of December 2023. In the short term, the identified needs include the provision of school supplies and IT equipment, training of local officers responsible for enrolment and certification in and around Aswan, upgrading of WASH facilities, and other minor improvements to several schools in preparation for the 2023/2024 academic year.

In the medium term, the construction of annexes in two schools (approximately 16-22 classrooms each) is needed in Idfu and Aswan City. These new annexes will help reduce classroom density, particularly in schools where kindergarten, primary, preparatory, and secondary school children are accommodated in the same building.

Core relief items

Items distributed to newly arrived individuals:

666,520 Bottles of water

150,000 hygiene kits

75,000 Sanitary items

So far UNHCR has installed two rub halls in Qoustol border crossing, and a third rub hall has been installed in the zone between the two borders. Those installations have been facilitating the scale up of the response as well as providing space for asylum-seekers to rest. In addition, UNHCR delivered nine commercial fridges, 15 family tents, 50 office chairs, 20 smartphones, four freezers, four logistic trolleys and 250 waiting benches to partner ERC.

Main needs and gaps:

Access to territory under new admission procedures remains a concern. New visa regulations implemented on 10 June have since been rigorously in place with respect to all Sudanese nationals except for individuals requiring urgent life-saving medical assistance who are admitted into the Egyptian territory even when they do not fully meet the newly introduced entry conditions. As a result, the average daily arrival rate has drastically dropped from about 4,000 – 5,000 individuals to approximately 500 persons per day.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- As of 4 July, the cumulative arrivals reached 34,095 households/149,842 individuals.
- UNHCR has received increasing reports of Sudanese refugees arriving at refugee-hosting areas through unofficial border crossing points.
- In Paloich (Upper Nile State), heavy rain on 4 July severely affected the returnees without shelters at the transit site and environs. The majority of the returnees are staying in the open without shelters, blankets, or mosquito nets, exacerbating health concerns.
- Onward air transportation from Malakal resumed on 3 July. IOM transported 902 returnees by 13 flights to Kwojok, Wau, Aweli and Juba. Nearly 5,500 individuals are estimated to remain at the Malakal/Bulukat reception site as of 5 July.
- In Rotriak (Unity State), the Unity State Government has set up a transit centre with 20 communal tents to accommodate returnees.
- The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)-endorsed Emergency Response Plan to the Sudan Situation projects that 60,000 refugees and asylum-seekers are expected to arrive by October 2023. Based on current estimates and conflict analysis of current trends inside Sudan, UNHCR further projects an additional 20,000 refugee arrivals by year-end.

Updates by location

Renk

A daily average of 1,500-2,000 new arrivals came through Joda-Renk during the last week.

UNHCR and all partners involved in the response have been working to jointly identify priority gaps to be address and related advocacy to improve conditions and service provision.

WFP has registered 2,349 households / 11,166 individuals and provided cash assistance to 10,856 individuals at both the Transit Centre and Joda border points. Local residents in nearby areas were also reported attempting to register for cash assistance, requiring community engagement to resolve the issues.

At the Renk Transit Centre, 22 children at risk have been registered including unaccompanied and separated children. Due to a lack of stabilized foster care and safe houses for unaccompanied children, it remains a concern to identify foster arrangements for better protection and shelter.

As part of preparedness for the rainy season, UNHCR and ACTED started to deliver murram to improve the soil condition and mitigate mud and stagnant water at the Transit Centre and Reception Centre. Water points and the health clinic will both be prioritized.

Paloich

Heavy rain on 4 July severely affected the returnees without shelters at the transit site and the Payam. Majority of the returnees are staying in the open without shelters, blankets, or mosquito nets, which increases further health concerns. There is a need for more emergency shelters to accommodate the current number (estimated to be over 11,000) at the new transit site in Paloich. Rains also delayed partners in undertaking a planned inter-agency assessment.

Many children at Paloich transit site are sick with respiratory infections, acute watery diarrhea and suspected measles with some admitted to hospital.

Maban

Relocation of refugees from Renk, Paloich and Malakal transit centres is ongoing, as well as arrivals directly from Sudan. Newly arrived refugees continue to be received and supported with hot meals as well as NFIs while pending registration. Measles vaccination is ongoing for the new arrivals of 6 months to 15 years to mitigate the outbreak. A total of 1,016 have been vaccinated and supplemented with Vitamin A.

UNHCR held meetings with leaders in Kaya, Batil and Doro to assess the potential for new refugee arrivals in the coming weeks as a result of the fighting in Blue Nile State.

Malakal (Upper Nile)

Onward air transportation from Malakal resumed on 3 July. IOM transported 902 returnees by 13 flights to Kwojok, Wau, Aweli and Juba. Nearly 5,500 individuals are estimated to remain at the Malakal/Bulukat Reception Site as of 5 July.

The government is assisting in the verification process for returnee households who own land in Malakal town, following which UNHCR and partners are cleaning and surveying plots for the construction of shelters.

A rapid protection assessment was conducted at the Reception Site by UNHCR and partners, HDC and DRC using focus group discussions (FGDs), key informant interviews, and observations, in line with AGD approach. The main issues raised include protection concerns back in Sudan (extortion, rape, family separations) and transportation, food and shelter as priority needs upon return.

Unity State and Ruweng Administrative Area

Panakuach-Yida

The Panakuach border entry point remained relatively calm with arriving refugees being transported to Pamir Refugee Camp and returnees brought to Lalop. UNHCR and Action Africa Help International (AAH-I) conducted an onsite inspection of the accommodation area in Panakuach Reception Centre to make critical improvements.

Rotriak

The Unity State Government has set up a transit centre in Rotriak with 20 communal tents to accommodate returnees. Road repairs especially of hot spot areas was completed, improving the condition of the road linking Bentiu and Rotriak settlements. Land demarcation is ongoing in Rotriak where returnees will receive a 20 by 20 metres plots of land allocated by the government.

Greater Bahir El Ghazal Region

Refugee Arrivals to Wedweil: The relocation of all the refugees from the temporary transit site to the newly constructed Transit Centre was completed on 30 June. As of 3 July, a total of 2,004 households / 5,029 refugees (56% Male, 44% Female, 54% children) had been profiled at the new Wedweil Transit Centre.

From 27 June – 3 July, 872 households received plastic sheets to help them erect shelters after relocation to the Transit Centre. The distribution of plastic sheets was prompted by lack of enough space in the communal shelters. So far, the Site Planning/Shelter team have demarcated and allocated space to 1,707 households to build temporary family shelters.

Kiir Adem border monitoring: A joint team of UNHCR, CRA, and partners WVI and Nonviolent Peace Force (NP) conducted a protection monitoring visit to Kiir Adem border in Aweil North County. The team encountered 11 trucks with refugees onboard to South Sudan. The team transported 29 refugees, mostly women and children whose truck developed mechanical breakdown on the way to the Wedweil Transit Centre. More new arrivals are expected.

Western Bahr el Ghazal: The UNHCR team in Raja received reports that arrivals from the border point of Timsha bordering South Darfur have reduced due to bad road conditions, rain and flooding from the overflowing river, as well as instances of road ambushes and looting. A few traders are accessing another border point (Boro-Medina) but reportedly using a longer route in Sudan to reach it.

Response Plans and Funding

Refugee Response Plan (RRP)

- On 17 June, the revised Sudan Emergency Refugee Response Plan – May to October 2023 replaced the plan published on 17 May to reflect the increased population planning figures and budget requirements for Chad. The planning figures for CAR have also been slightly adjusted (proportion of refugees vs. refugee returnees projected) without any change to the budget requirements. A further mid-term revision and extension of the full plan is taking place in July-August 2023.

  The Sudan emergency regional RRP seeks **USD 566.4 million** to support refugees, returnees and host communities in the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan. The funds are intended to help over 1.2 million people, including refugees, returnees and third country nationals.

  As of 6 July, the inter-agency Refugee Funding Tracker is showing that the regional RRP is funded at **12%**[1].

- Sudan Emergency Regional Refugee Response – June 2023 Progress Report

Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

- The revised inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Sudan – May-December 2023 requires **USD 2.56 billion** to help 18 million people.

UNHCR Supplementary Appeal

UNHCR's Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal – May to October 2023 was revised in June to reflect the new needs of **USD 277.3 million** that are also within the updated Sudan Situation RRP and the revised Sudan HRP. UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal is currently funded at **13%** as of 27 June 2023.

Resources

- UNHCR's Operational Data Portal (ODP) for the Sudan Situation provides daily updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan's neighbouring countries.
- Overview of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers Distribution and Movement in Sudan Dashboard (as of 2 July).
- UNHCR and IOM Joint Dashboard of arrivals to South Sudan, including data on returnee intentions, onward movements, and numbers and locations of returnees in and around Renk.
- UNHCR's Global Focus Sudan Operation page
- UNHCR's Sudan Emergency website
- UNHCR Protection Brief on Sudan – June 2023
- UNHCR's HELP site for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Sudan provides information to individuals seeking information and support inside Sudan (in English and Arabic).

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[1] *This is down from 15% previously, which was due to an error in funding amounts reported for partners in South Sudan.*