

SUDAN SITUATION

15–21 August 2023



A UNHCR officer talks with an Eritrean refugee family who fled violence in Sudan during their registration process at the UNHCR Egypt Registration Center in Cairo's outskirts. © UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Highlights

The deadly clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that started in Sudan on 15 April 2023 have continued for 128 days as of 21 August.

On World Humanitarian Day, 19 August, UNHCR in Sudan shared a [video message](#): *Millions of people are forced to flee their homes due to the ongoing conflict, and humanitarian needs are growing.*

On 18 August, the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA) released a [statement](#) expressing serious concern about the ongoing hostilities in and around Kadugli, South Kordofan State, which led to the targeting of a UNISFA helicopter on 10 August.

OVERVIEW: There are now over 4.6 million forcibly displaced due to the recent outbreak of conflict in Sudan, including 3,433,025 internally and 946,930 in neighbouring countries. Sudan was already hosting large refugee populations before being impacted by this new emergency and, like hosting countries, need additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance. The most basic needs are urgently needed, including water, food, shelter, health, and core relief items. The current priority activities are the registration of new arrivals, relocation away from border areas, identification of 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.

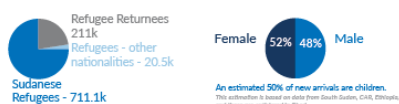
4,567,449
Forcibly Displaced

3,433,025
IDPs in Sudan

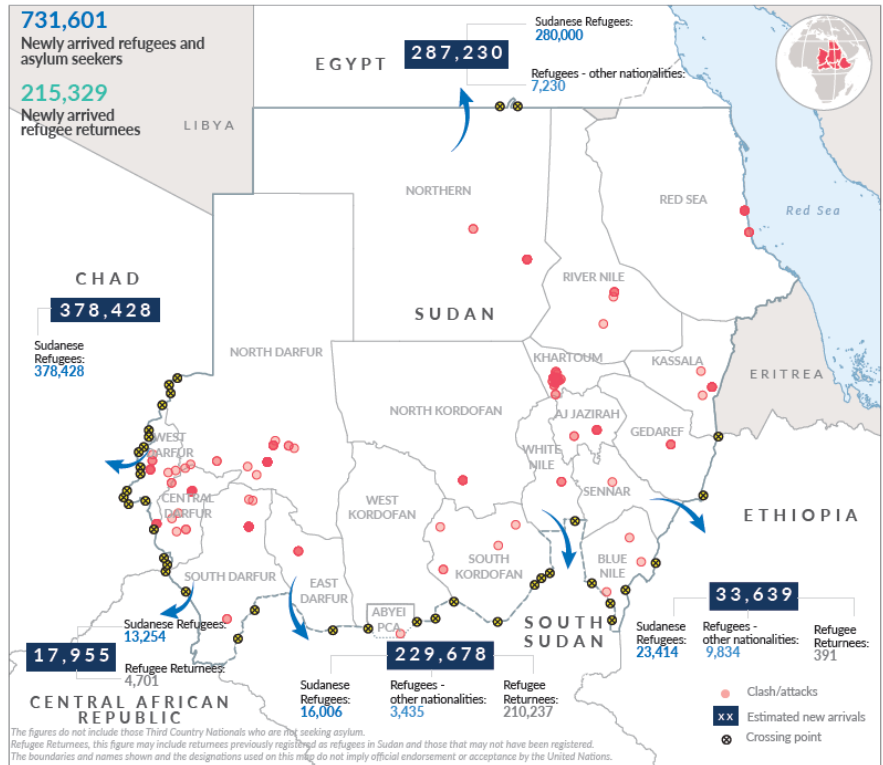
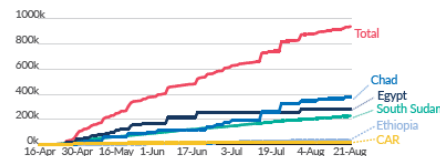
946,930
Newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers and returnees

187,494
Self-relocated Refugees in Sudan

Arrivals by population and estimated gender type



New arrivals from Sudan



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- As of 15 August, the [IOM DTM](#) (Displacement Tracking Matrix) shows that the number of IDPs in Sudan has reached 3,433,025 individuals. In addition, 187,494 of the refugees residing in Sudan prior to the crisis have been displaced within the country since the start of the current crisis. The security situation in Sudan remains tense and volatile, as conflict continues in Khartoum, South Darfur, South and West Kordofan, Jazirah, and Blue Nile States. The lack of security and law enforcement is resulting in a proliferation of banditry across all states.
- UN and international non-governmental organisations' offices continue to be looted after the breakdown of law and order due to the conflict, most recently including the UNHCR office in El Fula, West Kordofan.
- Significant population movement has been reported from Nyala to El Fasher due to fighting in South Darfur; numbers are still to be verified.
- Lack of food assistance is alarming and many refugees in hard-to-reach areas remain in dire situations and prone to malnutrition.
- Customs clearance delays continue and are hindering the release of items from Port Sudan. Three containers of pharmaceutical items in Kosti are ready for distribution while six containers recently arrived in Port Sudan and are awaiting clearance. Medical supplies will be moved to other field locations from both Kosti and directly from Port Sudan. Hygiene kits from UNHCR regional stockpiles in Nairobi are pending exemption clearance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Updates by Location

South Kordofan State

Provision of support and services to refugees continues. UNHCR partner Al Manar Organization provided medical care to 83 refugees in Abu Jubayhah town, including 9 children who were found malnourished. In Abu Jubayhah, 43 refugee households displaced from Khartoum also received NFI assistance. In Al Leri, two generators in the settlement were stolen which will affect provision of water to refugees.

Northern State

UNHCR provided NFI assistance in Dongola for the first time, as well as in Wadi Halfa. The Egyptian consulate is reportedly becoming more restrictive in the issuance of visas, down to some 40-50 a day from 100 per day a few weeks ago.

Blue Nile State

Non-critical program activities continue to be suspended in Kurmuk due to the tense security situation.

Between 1-15 August, 266 new arrivals from Ethiopia were received in Camp 6, with the majority being women, children, and elderly. New arrivals reported that the peace agreement between the Ethiopian central government and Gumuz opposition in Benishangul of October 2022 has broken down. New arrivals reported sporadic fighting which has caused civilians to flee. UNHCR and COR have strengthened screening processes to preserve the civilian character of asylum.

White Nile State

During border monitoring discussions, immigration police and military intelligence reported that individuals who are not South Sudanese or Sudanese are not allowed to enter Sudan from South Sudan.

Registration continues in Alagaya and Dabat Bosin camps. Additionally, UNHCR is providing shelter support for refugees displaced from Khartoum and conflict areas through the distribution of family tents in Um Sangour, Aljameya, Dabat Bosin, Alagaya, and Alganaa camps. The existing NFI stock in the state has been depleted, hampering the office's ability to respond to new needs.

The health situation continues to be alarming with reports of high mortality rates in Khor Alwarel, Aljameya, and Al Redis 1 camps. A new agreement with a health partner is in the making to support measles interventions and response.

On the IDP response, UNHCR has verified 1,500 households (approx. 7,350 IDPs) for whom the distribution of NFI commenced on 17 August.

UNHCR and COR have agreed on the operationalization of Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), starting with the establishment of an AAP team, which will conduct a survey on communication and preferred feedback mechanisms within the communities in the camps. UNHCR and UNICEF are working together to establish the AAP/SEA working group in the state. Additionally, training of community leaders continues to strengthen community-based structures across the camps.

Capacity building activities were conducted for various implementing partners (in collaboration with COR) on the identification of persons with specific needs (PSN) and on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM). Although there is no intention for encampment, the current set up in White Nile with over 227 gathering sites requires better coordination and site management to meet the needs of the over 85,000 IDPs hosted in the state.

Gedaref

UNHCR was informed that 24 refugees and asylum-seekers from Tunaydbah, Um Rakuba, and Um Gulja were arrested at a checkpoint in Al Fao reportedly on their way to Khartoum. As the individuals did not carry official travel permits, all of them were suspected of traveling to join parties to the conflict. The group has been charged with illegal entry. UNHCR's legal partner, Mutawinat, has appealed the court's decision and is advocating for fair treatment of refugees and asylum-seekers in line with Sudan's Asylum Act. In addition, UNHCR, together with COR and Mutawinat, will conduct a joint detention visit to conduct a rapid assessment and provide assistance.

New arrivals entered through Taya border due to the ongoing fighting in the Amhara region of Ethiopia. The individuals were registered and relocated to Babikri. Border monitoring continues to be ramped up. The

Gallabat/Metema border between Sudan and Ethiopia reopened on 13 August allowing mostly Sudanese to cross while foreigners are reported to face challenges.

On the IDP response, cash assistance for 832 families in three localities will be rolled out starting next week.

Local authorities have imposed hefty taxes on refugee-owned businesses in Tunaydbah market. Authorities reportedly confiscated properties of business owners who could not pay the high tax amounts of SDG 30,000-40,000 (approximately USD 50-67). The refugee community has requested UNHCR and COR to intervene with the local authorities to reduce the tax rates to a more reasonable amount commensurate with their earnings. Given the drastic impact on the livelihood and self-reliance of refugees, UNHCR will meet with COR to identify a solution.

COR reported that 25 Ethiopians from Tigray and 15 Eritreans, who had previously crossed into Metema due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, have re-entered Sudan and the immigration authorities, in collaboration with COR, facilitated their travel permits. All 40 refugees (32 men and 8 women) had been previously registered with UNHCR in Khartoum and in Tunaydbah, Um Rakuba and Shagarab camps in eastern Sudan. COR facilitated their return to the respective camps.

COR also alerted UNHCR that nine Eritreans who wished to re-enter to Sudan have been denied access by the immigration authorities in Gallabat. UNHCR is following up with COR to advocate the unimpeded access of this group to Sudanese territory for asylum.

Port Sudan (Red Sea State)

UNHCR is preparing for the rollout of Cash Based Interventions (CBI) activities, hopefully by the latter half of September. UNHCR is engaging a partner in the vulnerability screening plan.

Wad Madani (Jazirah State)

Protection monitoring and visits to various gathering sites are continuing. The Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) is reported to be decongesting gathering sites, increasing consequently the number of sites. Profiling of gathering sites through the site management sector will commence.

Cross-border interventions

In [Chad](#), three consignments of NFIs have been received in Farchana and UNHCR is finalizing NFI distribution plans for West and Central Darfur. UNHCR has met with local authorities in Adré to discuss the upcoming UNHCR cross border operations (approved by both governments).

CHAD

Highlights

- As of 18 August, 378,428 refugees (114,662 households) have been counted by UNHCR in eastern Chad. IOM estimates that 48,180 Chadian migrants have returned from Sudan. Arrivals continue to be reported.
- A total of 139,112 individuals have been relocated away from the borders to safer locations.
- A total of 51,506 medical consultations have been carried out since the onset of the crisis. A 28 per cent proportion of global acute malnutrition has been detected among 34,958 children screened, aged 6-59 months.
- To date, 26,535 family shelters and 163 communal shelters have been completed across the three provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila, and Wadi Fira.
- The greatest needs continue to be shelter, core relief items and WASH, including access to water, and access to health services.

Relocation

To date, 139,112 individuals have been relocated through 180 convoys to seven existing camps, where extensions, basic amenities and infrastructures were set up, and to four newly established camps, in the provinces of Wadi Fira (13,030 individuals), Ouaddaï (86,372 individuals), and Sila (39,710 individuals). This brings the total of new arrivals relocated to 37 per cent. However, 207,154 individuals remain in the border town of Adré. The situation remains critical despite the mobilization of WASH and health partners, and the continued relocations to the camps.

Protection

UNHCR has organised a training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in Abéché, in which 27 focal points from 11 UNHCR partners participated (CIAUD, LMI, IRC, HIAS, CRT, JRS, CNARR, AIRD, ADES, ACTED and PRSST). The training covered the principles of PSEA interventions and the role of the focal points.

In Ouaddaï, several awareness-raising campaigns took place during the last week. At Farchana camp, 2,680 people participated in three focus group discussions on GBV, organised by UNHCR partner HIAS. Five sessions at the Adré site, also organised by HIAS, helped raise awareness on human rights themes. At Métché camp, the national agency for refugees, la Commission Nationale d'Accueil de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés (CNARR) organised an awareness-raising session on the available PSEA services.

In Iriba, door-to-door campaigns have taken place focusing on physical aggression and PSEA.

Food Distribution

As of 14 August, 180,726 refugees have received hot meals during relocation by UNHCR and its partner CRT (118,368 in Ouaddaï, 44,076 in Sila and 18,282 in Wadi Fira).

Health and Nutrition

Since the beginning of the emergency, 51,506 medical consultations have been carried out. Acute respiratory infections, watery diarrhea and malaria remain the three most frequent pathologies. In addition, 4,918 mental health cases have been treated.

A 28 per cent proportion of global acute malnutrition has been detected among 34,958 children screened, aged 6-59 months. A total of 6,623 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and 3,188 cases of severe acute malnutrition have been treated.

Some young children arrive from Sudan so severely malnourished there have been cases of deaths shortly after their arrival and immediate admission to the hospital, particularly in Adré. UNHCR and partners are stepping up their health and nutrition efforts to ensure that refugee children receive the life-saving treatments they require.

To date, 6,372 pregnant and breastfeeding women have been screened for malnutrition, and 637 cases of moderate acute malnutrition have been treated. A total of 414 deliveries attended by skilled personnel were recorded.

Vaccination against measles is progressing, with 132,240 children reached with the support of Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in Sila and Adré health districts.

The national polio vaccination campaign is underway in different sites and camps.

To improve health and nutrition outcomes in the Adré site, 100 community volunteers (50 Chadians and 50 Sudanese refugees) have been conducting awareness-raising sessions, case detection and referral of patients and pregnant women to mobile clinics since 5 August.

UNHCR's partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) is providing health care and nutrition services in the new Métché camp.

MSF Switzerland is setting up the infrastructure for secondary health care in the Ourang camp.

Shelters, infrastructure, and WASH

To date, 26,535 family shelters (16,525 in Ouaddaï, 5,835 in Sila and 4,175 in Wadi Fira); 163 communal shelters (125 in Ouaddaï, 29 in Sila, 9 in Wadi Fira); 4,393 latrines and showers (2,832 in Ouaddaï, 1,305 in Sila, 256 in Wadi Fira); and 21 boreholes (16 in Ouaddaï and 5 in Sila) have been completed.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Highlights

- As of 20 August, a total of 1,645 individuals have relocated to Korsi, Birao, of which 71 per cent are women and children.
- UNHCR's partner NOURRIR completed 456 shelters in Korsi.
- UNHCR, INTERSOS, NOURRIR and the National Commission for Refugees (Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés, CRN) have targeted over 300 refugees through community sensitization sessions to promote the participation of children in educational programs, focusing on the importance of girls' involvement.

Response Overview

Since the beginning of the crisis, an estimated 17,955 persons have arrived in CAR from Sudan, including 13,254 Sudanese refugees and 4,701 Central African returnees. The majority 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 have provided protection and life-saving assistance.

To date, a total of 1,645 individuals have settled in Korsi, close to the town of Birao. 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.

The CNR and INTERSOS have deployed staff in Am-Dafock to conduct border and protection monitoring and provide information. They have reported that a few families have traveled on the Nyala-Um Dhukun-Birao axis, to avoid the current dire situation in Am-Dafock.

Assistance continues in Korsi, where construction works for family and community shelters, latrines and showers are ongoing. Biometric registration continues, a listening centre was established and individual and community psychosocial support is provided. An information and feedback center, and a complaint management mechanism have been set up in Korsi.

Awareness raising sessions on gender-based violence (GBV), protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and child protection are also taking place, as well as healthcare and distribution of food and CRIs. In Bangui and Birao, coordination efforts are led by CNR and UNHCR.

Registration

A total of 8,925 person have been biometrically registered.

Relocation

As of 20 August, a total of 1,645 individuals have relocated to Korsi, mostly women and children.

A total of 796 persons have arrived by their own means since the last relocation convoy. They were registered and provided with assistance.

Protection

The CNR and INTERSOS staff deployed at the border continue to monitor the situation in Am-Dafock. They reported protection incidents such as physical violence, thefts, as well as pendular movements between Am-Dafock (CAR side) and Um-Dafuq (Sudan side).

INTEROS and the CNR have carried out two community sensitization sessions on human rights in Am-Dafock, targeting over 600 members from the refugee and host communities.

INTEROS organized individual psychosocial counseling sessions for persons with specific needs, including women at risk. In addition, four group counseling sessions on GBV have been targeting women and girls. A total eight workshops on daily life skills, including braiding and knitting were also conducted during the reporting period.

Since the relocation started, a total of 268 persons with specific needs were identified in Korsi, including women at risk, persons living with disabilities, unaccompanied and separated minors and elderlies, who were referred to relevant services.

In the past week, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS identified 17 GBV survivors in Korsi, as well as two survivors in Birao, who all received assistance and were referred to relevant services.

INTERSOS continues to raise awareness about the information and feedback center and the complaint management mechanism set up in Korsi. To date, 128 complaints were collected, and feedback is regularly provided.

INTERSOS conducted 39 perception surveys with returnee households in Birao. The main concerns identified were related to access to health services and shelter.

Health

UNHCR's partner NOURRIR carried out an awareness raising session on hygiene promotion and the proper use of showers and latrines, targeting 500 households.

During the reporting period, NOURRIR, MSF-Spain and the International Medical Corps (IMC) have carried out 504 medical consultations, in addition to 22 prenatal consultations, 13 gynecological consultations and 6 post-natal consultations, 4 surgeries and 3 child deliveries. A total of 17 patients have been referred to the Health District in Birao for secondary care.

Shelter, CRIs and Food Distribution

NOURRIR completed 456 shelters in Korsi and continued the delivery of hot meals to newcomers (178) and of CRI kits (254 people targeted).

Le Projet d'appui au retour et à la Réintégration en Centrafrique (PARET-RCA) and WFP continue to distribute dry food to the 833 returnees (310 households) now in Birao.

Education

Experimental literacy and French classes targeted 224 students, including boys and girls. The activities fall within the first phase of a project supported by Education Cannot Wait (ECW).

A total of eight tents have been set up as temporary learning spaces by Triangle and UNICEF.

ETHIOPIA

- As of 20 August, 33,639 refugees and asylum-seekers (16,542 families) have arrived in Ethiopia from Sudan.
- After a 10-day hiatus, following a relative improvement of the security situation in Amhara, UNHCR was able to resume its activities in Metema.
- Ongoing hostilities in neighboring Sudan have caused a new influx of refugees crossing the border through Kurmuk, in the Benishangul-Gumuz region.
- The health conditions of the refugees are dire, and many children are suffering from malnutrition.
- Refugee sites are facing various challenges like water shortage and a lack of a durable WASH infrastructure in Kumer in the Amhara region.

Response Overview

In the Assosa operating area, in the Benishangul-Gumuz region (BSGR), UNHCR has registered an influx of some 1,000 people at Alkandayo kebele of Kurmuk woreda/district following the escalation of clashes in neighboring Sudan. UNHCR is assessing immediate needs of the new arrivals to provide assistance.

The number of new arrivals at the Kurmuk Transit Center, arriving through kebeles Gezan, Alkandayo, Dulshalo and Shatol, is increasing by 50-60 individuals per week.

The relocation of registered refugees to the Sherkole camp has been postponed twice due to slow construction of transitional shelters.

The Sherkole woreda (district) administration requested that 300 refugees residing in the premises of the district's secondary school are relocated to the Sherkole camp before the start of the academic year on 1 September. To

accommodate this request, an RRS-led mission met with the Benishangul-Gumuz regional government to identify a potential area for the expansion of the Sherkole camp.

The security situation in the Metema border area, in the Amhara region had been impeding UNHCR operations at the border, the transit site, and in Kumer settlement. The situation has somewhat calmed down during the reporting period, allowing for UNHCR activities to resume.

Population Movements

As of 20 August, 33,639 refugees and asylum-seekers (16,542 families) have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia. Of these, 54 per cent crossed through the Metema entry point in Amhara, 43 per cent through the Kurmuk entry point in Benishangul-Gumuz and 700 individuals (2%) in different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey). Most of the arrivals are Sudanese (70%), followed by Eritreans (24%), South Sudanese (4.5%), Ethiopian refugee returnees (1%), and other nationalities (0.2%).

On 17 and 18 August, the Ethiopian Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and UNHCR resumed pre-registration and screening at the Metema border, after a 10-day pause due to security reasons.

So far, 9,094 individuals (6,314 families) have been relocated from the Metema border to the Kumer settlement. The Metema transit site currently hosts 2,500 individuals.

Access

In the Amhara region, UNHCR staff, partners, as well as persons fleeing the conflict in Sudan have access to the border crossing point (Metema).

In Kurmuk, the border is closed from the Sudan side, forcing people to enter through other locations in the Kurmuk district, such as Alkandayo, Durshatolo and Duralo kebeles.

Protection

In Kurmuk Transit Center, a protection help desk has been set up to assist asylum-seekers and refugees addressing their concerns regarding registration, food assistance, core relief items (CRIs), health services and relocation to Sherkole camp. So far, 720 most vulnerable families (3,600 people) have been identified by UNHCR and given priority for food and CRI distributions.

UNHCR, RRS, International Rescue Committee (IRC), GOAL International, Action for the Needy (ANE), Plan International Ethiopia (PIE), and Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO) conducted a monitoring visit to Kurmuk Transit Center to gain first-hand insight into interventions and assistance provided so far. Health, nutrition, education, and protection experts from UNHCR, RRS, IRC and GOAL International also visited Akendayu kebele in BSGR, which has recently experienced an increased influx.

In Metema area, activities resumed in all three sites. Protection desks are operational, serving 100 individuals every day. Through Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) Home-to-Home monitoring, 332 unaccompanied minors and separated children were identified in Metema, of whom 145 have received psychosocial first aid.

Additionally, 74 refugees and asylum-seekers have taken part of a GBV awareness session organized by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church – Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC).

Registration at Kurmuk Transit Center revealed that 43 per cent of the beneficiaries are adults, 38 per cent are children aged 5-17, and 19 per cent are infants.

UNHCR have facilitated recreational activities for children aged 5-17 in Kurmuk and distributed 800 packs of High Energy Biscuits to young children and lactating mothers in the primary school of the Akendayu kebele. Additionally, UNHCR conducted an assessment of the education situation and needs in Akendayu and Dulshetalo kebeles (BSGR), which has received more refugees and asylum-seekers in recent weeks.

Some 150 women received information related to GBV at the Kurmuk transit center, learning how GBV is defined, how to prevent and report it, and what help is available.

Kurmuk Transit Center currently hosts some 70 people who require special help and care due to their specific needs. This category has been given priority for protection services, but there is not sufficient staff available to perform proper assessments.

Health

In Kurmuk area, UNHCR have conducted a nutrition screening of children in Akendayu kebele, which indicated that the state of their health was very worrisome and requiring urgent intervention. Many malaria cases were registered at the Akendayu health post, with no medication or test kits to treat them available. One child who was referred to the Kurmuk transit centre health post has died.

Shelter/Site development and relocation

In Kurmuk, 20 recently constructed emergency communal shelters are in urgent need of rehabilitation due to leaking roofs (made of plastic sheets). Necessary funds are being allocated to mitigate this problem.

WASH

In Kurmuk, UNICEF, RRS, UNHCR and RaDO conducted a joint mission to assess needs for efficient WASH services. Following the mission, the team will engage in intensified advocacy for the mobilization of much-needed resources. The water supply in Kumer stands at 27.1 liters per person per day.

The Kumer settlement and Kurmuk Transit Center are currently experiencing a shortage of water supply and sanitation facilities. In Kumer, 8.5 liters are distributed per person/day (against an emergency standard of 15 liters per day and a post-emergency standard of 20 liters per day), while in the Transit Center, every beneficiary receives 20 liters per day. The remoteness of the water trucking source to both sites makes it difficult to meet the current needs.

In terms of hygiene, the person-to-latrine ratio in Kumer is 1:158, which is below the emergency standard. In the Transit Center, the ratio is 1:100, which is also below the emergency standard.

EGYPT

Highlights

- As of 20 August, 280,000 Sudanese and 7,230 individuals of other nationalities, totaling some 287,000 people, have crossed into Egypt according to the latest figures from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The daily number of entries remains stable with an average of some 300 entries through Qustol and some 150 entries through the Arqeen border crossing. Reportedly, the Egyptian authorities no longer require security clearance for individuals wishing to enter from Sudan. It is now only necessary to present a visa, which may be obtained from Egyptian consulates in Wadi Halfa and Port Sudan. Over 60 per cent of Sudanese surveyed by UNHCR at the border had waited between one and three months to obtain their visa.
- UNHCR received increased reports of persons, including children, arrested and detained on grounds of attempted irregular entry into Libya. Within the Children on the Move Taskforce, IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF are monitoring such reports and developing advocacy messages beyond individual case management given existing SOPs signed with the GoE.
- The heat wave and lack of water and medicine at the Egypt-Sudan border has reportedly led to the death of some 15 truck drivers (exact number cannot be verified). The Egyptian authorities have since requested that the Egyptian Red Crescent provide food and medicine to drivers stranded at the border, as well as water in addition to the 200 bottles already provided to the truck drivers. Arqeen and Qustol, the two main border crossings on the 1200km Egypt-Sudan border have recently experienced long tailbacks consisting of hundreds of commercial trucks carrying food and hygiene products waiting to cross into Sudan. Transit delays for cargo into Sudan from Egypt have regularly been reported by UNHCR since the start of the crisis for reasons ranging from lack of capacity to the time it takes to inspect the cargo during customs clearance by the Sudanese authorities. However, the delays have steadily become longer with greater humanitarian consequences, including the delay of essential goods reaching Wadi Halfa and other places in Sudan affected by the war.
- Four months and a week into the Sudan crisis, UNHCR Egypt continues to increase its registration capacity through the hiring of 29 new staff and the expansion of the registration centre facilities in Cairo. This week, UNHCR has registered more than 3,700 persons newly arrived from Sudan, the highest weekly number since the start of the crisis. In total, 61,746 new arrivals have approached UNHCR for registration appointments

and other protection services, with 58% of those fully registered (36,080 individuals) since 15 April. The trend continues to remain disproportionately high for new female arrivals (56%) as well as female heads of household (65%). Nearly all new arrivals originate from Khartoum (94%) and 32% of those registered with high levels of vulnerability are processed for emergency cash assistance.

Response Overview

Protection

UNHCR Egypt remains highly committed to preventing and responding to GBV and to providing comprehensive support to survivors, including new arrivals from Sudan. In July, UNHCR decided to expand the delivery of GBV safety and recovery packages, including cash assistance, to prioritize newly arrived female GBV survivors. UNHCR has since finalized the recommendation of more than 230 survivors for this type of assistance which is being processed. The safety and recovery package is designed to support GBV survivors and individuals at risk of GBV through provision of the financial assistance as part of a holistic case plan and individual needs assessments. With the additional funding available, a total of 600 individuals are expected to benefit from safety and recovery packages by the end of 2023.

Registration

As of 20 August, UNHCR has provided pre-registration appointments to 61,746 newly arrived individuals (29,533 households), of whom 36,080 individuals (17,272 households) have already been registered. The majority are Sudanese nationals (92%), while the top three third country nationals registered are South Sudanese (3%), Eritrean (2%) and Syrian (1%). The vast majority of Sudanese (94%) originate from Khartoum, while 3% are from Omdurman, 1% from South Darfur and 1% from North Darfur. In Egypt, around 90% reside in Greater Cairo, 8% in Alexandria, and 2% are scattered around the country.

Cash Assistance

In the past week, there was a significant 45% increase in the number of people to whom UNHCR has provided emergency cash assistance. The total number has now surpassed 15,600 individuals newly arrived from Sudan, as UNHCR continues to work towards bringing assistance to more people in need.

A total of 29,175 registered and unregistered individuals (9,875 households) have been identified by UNHCR as eligible for the emergency cash assistance. Of those, 15,658 individuals (5,321 households) have already been assisted since the start of the Sudan conflict. Age and gender trends remain consistent, with the majority of assessed families being female headed (72%), and the vast majority (80%) being between 18-59 years of age.

A higher prevalence of vulnerability is noticed in Aswan and Alexandria compared to Cairo, as 67% of those assessed in Aswan and in Alexandria are found to be eligible, compared to 62% in Greater Cairo. Vulnerable cases include, among others, lactating women, elderly, people with disabilities and single parents with children.

Education

Concerns have been raised by the Sudanese refugee community regarding the recent announcement from the Ministry of Higher Education that all foreign students must pay the equivalent of \$2,000 for first-time university registration. It comes on top of significant increases in the cost of university education in recent years and marks the end of a long-standing policy that saw Sudanese nationals treated equally to Egyptian nationals with regards to access to university education. School children are also experiencing barriers to accessing education with delays to obtaining residency permits affecting school registration for both new arrivals and in-situ refugees. Currently, with the increased demand for UNHCR registration and protection services, the families of students who are required to provide valid UNHCR cards and residency permits are unable to do so, due to difficulties in obtaining timely renewal appointments with UNHCR.

On 14 August, UNHCR supported two refugee youth-led initiatives assisted by UNHCR under its Community Empowerment project in attending the International Youth Day celebration in Cairo. The event - under the theme "green skills for youth towards sustainable world" - served as a platform to recognize the remarkable achievements and talents of the refugee youth in the digital field, as well as providing the opportunity to network with other stakeholders and fellow Egyptian youth. The refugees received digital learning certification in PROSPECTS-funded Community learning centers. Those also offers trainings on language and social skills, sports activities and drive the youth away from negative coping mechanisms. Approximately 2000 young refugees representing eight different nationalities enrolled in the digital courses in the community learning centers and engaged in community activities together with fellow refugees and Egyptian youth.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- There has been a steady increase in the percentage of new arrivals entering South Sudan through the Joda/Renk border, up from 88 per cent of new arrivals two weeks ago to 97 per cent this week. Meanwhile, arrivals through the Panakuach border have been decreasing. This trend is likely a result of high transportation fees (ranging from SSP 50,000-60,000 / USD 80-100 per person), harassment by armed groups, looting, and other protection incidents reported by new arrivals, deterring them from taking the route leading to Panakuach, and instead using the longer but safer route through Renk and Malakal.
- Humanitarian partners have been unable to move some 2,285 returnees who arrived at Nyeruop Port, Unity State this week. Government authorities facilitated their travel to the port from Malakal, with the expectation that IOM would support onward travel to their final destinations. However, heavy rain and flooding have cut-off access, leaving the group stranded for over ten days. UNHCR and IOM are exploring alternative returnee routes with authorities, such as Manga Port which remains accessible during the rainy and dry season. Adverse weather conditions have also continued to cause widespread damage to over 70 communal shelters in various transit and reception centers.
- The Vatican Secretary of State, His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin visited Malakal on 15 August, accompanied by the Governor of Upper Nile State and the Bishop of Malakal Diocese. The delegation met with returnees at the reception center and held brief discussions with humanitarian agencies, where they highlighted the need to support returnees in their areas of return to ensure sustainable re-integration.

Protection

In Panakuach, UNHCR received reports of heavy artillery heard from the South Kordofan area. The military also reported clashes/heavy fighting in Fula, Western Kordofan State that led to the destruction and looting of the market. This has been reported to have caused severe food shortages affecting South Sudanese refugees living in Kharasana camp.

UNHCR and partners continue to receive reports from new arrivals of harassment by armed groups, looting and exploitation during their flight to Sudan.

UNHCR and partners in Abyei, noted an increase of arrivals from Nyala, Sudan following an uptick of fighting in the region. Many new arrivals reported being separated from family members during their flight and believed some of the relatives have arrived through Renk. Protection organisations are assessing ways to support family reunification as a response to these issues. Refugees in Abyei have reportedly witnessed numerous GBV incidents against women, however most of the female victims were reticent to report this to protection agencies.

In Wedwil Refugee Settlement in Aweil, the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is undertaking mine clearance for unexploded ordinances. UNMAS has estimated that the demining may take up to 90 days. So far this week, one unexploded ordinance has been recovered and disposed of safely.

Health

Over 1,436 children have been screened for malnutrition, in Renk, Malakal and Gorom, of which 19 per cent have been diagnosed as either moderately or severely malnourished. The highest rates were noted in Malakal (23%) and Joda/Renk (13%), both above the 10 per cent threshold for emergencies.

Acute watery diarrhea, malaria and acute respiratory tract infection remained the top three morbidities at most transit/reception centers and refugee settlements, except for Gorom Refugee Settlement, where skin diseases featured among the top three morbidities.

Health partners have identified a 33 per cent decrease in suspected measles cases; 71 cases down from 106 last week in Renk (63) and Malakal (8), with four measles related deaths recorded.

Food Security and Nutrition

In Renk, an inter-agency joint assessment on cash assistance for food was conducted during 10-12 August with the main findings indicating that most interviewees preferred to receive cash assistance over hot meals. No protection risks associated with cash were reported. Interviewees did, however, complain about one-off cash disbursement meant to last seven days, when most remain at the reception and transit centers for significantly longer.

Water and Sanitation

Water provision at transit and reception centers averaged between 10-15 liters per person per day, with a marked increase in water provision at Joda (15L) due to the arrival of the UNHCR water bowser.

In Renk, the pit latrine ratio stood at 120 individuals per stance, which remains below the emergency standards of 50 individuals per stance. Africa Development Aid (ADA) is currently constructing 10 additional stances of pit latrines to help close this gap.

Shelter and NFI

Shelter provision for new arrivals continues to be challenged by heavy rain and flooding, necessitating accelerated construction of new shelters to house arrivals. Of the 20 collective shelters in Bulukat Transit Center in Malakal, nine suffered structural damage and/or flooding. Partner organisations have mobilized to improve drainage, recover/rehabilitate damaged collective structures, and build seven new emergency shelters.

In Paloich, 54 temporary shelters at the transit center were destroyed by heavy rain and flooding interrupting health and WASH activities.

In Abyei, shelter needs persist, as only 10 families are accommodated in the transit center's collective shelter, with the remaining 210 refugee families residing in family tents not suitable for the current unpredictable weather conditions.

UNHCR in Bentiu, led and coordinated the distribution of CRIs from IOM, IRC and Welthungerhilfe (WHH) for returnees in Rotriak who arrived in July, following last week's verification exercise. Approximately 800 vulnerable households were reached, including families from the host community.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

UNHCR and IOM are evaluating an additional area for the expansion of Bulukat Transit Center. The land allocated has been agreed upon with the South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) Task Force Committee and was assessed for flood risk. The area can accommodate an additional eight collective shelters.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

Refugee Response Plan (RRP)

- The inter-agency [Sudan Emergency Refugee Response Plan – May-October 2023](#) seeks **USD 566.4 million** to support refugees, returnees and host communities in CAR, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan. As of 21 August, the RRP had reached a funding level of **35%** (\$198.2 million) as per the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#).
- [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-October 2023](#) was revised in June to reflect the needs of **USD 277,354,702** (within the RRP and HRP). As of 20 July, the Supplementary Appeal had reached a funding level of **34%** (\$95.7 million).

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.
- [UNHCR and IOM Joint Dashboard](#) of arrivals to South Sudan, including data on returnee intentions, onward movements, and numbers and locations of returnees in and around Renk.
- [UNHCR Global Focus Sudan Operation page](#)
- [UNHCR Sudan Emergency website](#)
- [Overview of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers Distribution & Movement in Sudan Dashboard](#) (as of 15 August).
- [Update on arrivals from Sudan in Chad](#) (as of 11 August).
- [New population movements from Sudan to Egypt](#) (as of 7 August).
- [UNHCR Health and Nutrition Update for the Sudan Situation – July 2023](#)
- [UNHCR Protection Brief on South Sudan – July 2023](#)
- [UNHCR Protection Brief on Sudan – July 2023](#)
- [UNHCR Protection Brief on Chad – July 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](#)).

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).