

Context and methodology

Following the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan on 15 April 2023, Ethiopia is receiving thousands of forcibly displaced people at three main points of entry along the land border between Sudan and Ethiopia. The Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and UNHCR are coordinating the response to the new refugee inflows, including daily border monitoring, screening for asylum-seekers and refugees, and coordinating the provision of basic services, such as food, water, temporary shelter as well as emergency healthcare, together with partners.

RRS and UNHCR screen Sudanese and Non-Sudanese new arrivals who are seeking international protection in Ethiopia and Ethiopian refugees returning to Ethiopia. Data is collected at household level, while individual registration procedures will be conducted with biometrics. Category of persons screened and recorded by RRS/UNHCR include:

- **Ethiopian refugee returnees:** previously registered as refugees in Sudan. UNHCR collects information like refugee ID number, camp names, etc
- **Sudanese refugees/asylum seekers:** UNHCR identifies both Sudanese previously registered as refugees in Ethiopia and Sudanese newly arrived in need of international protection
- **Non-Sudanese refugees/asylum seekers** in need of international protection include mainly Eritreans and South Sudanese.

The methodology and tools developed by UNHCR and RRS help among others to: i) profile new arrivals (intention of return, persons with specific needs...), ii) record refugee ID numbers of all forcibly displaced persons previously registered as refugees in Sudan with the purpose of reconciling data to ultimately help in maintaining its integrity across the two countries and iii) identify Ethiopian refugee returnees from Sudan in order to provide the necessary return assistance.

Key figures

35,770

Total new arrivals in need of international protection

35,409

Sudanese and Non-Sudanese refugees/asylum seekers

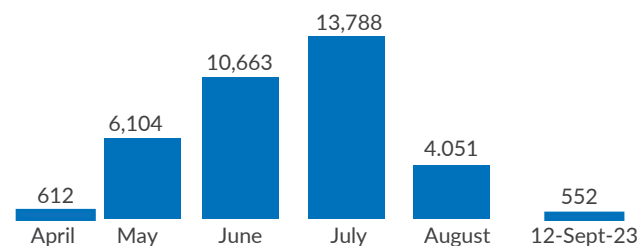
395

Ethiopian refugee returnees

Gender breakdown

Children (0 - 17 years)		Adult (18 years+)	
Boys	Girls	Male	Female
22%	20%	37%	21%

Monthly arrival trends | April - August 2023



Relocation

9,383

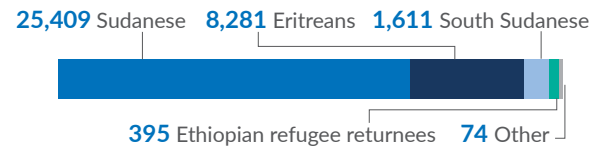
Individuals relocated from Metema TC to Kumer site

1,364

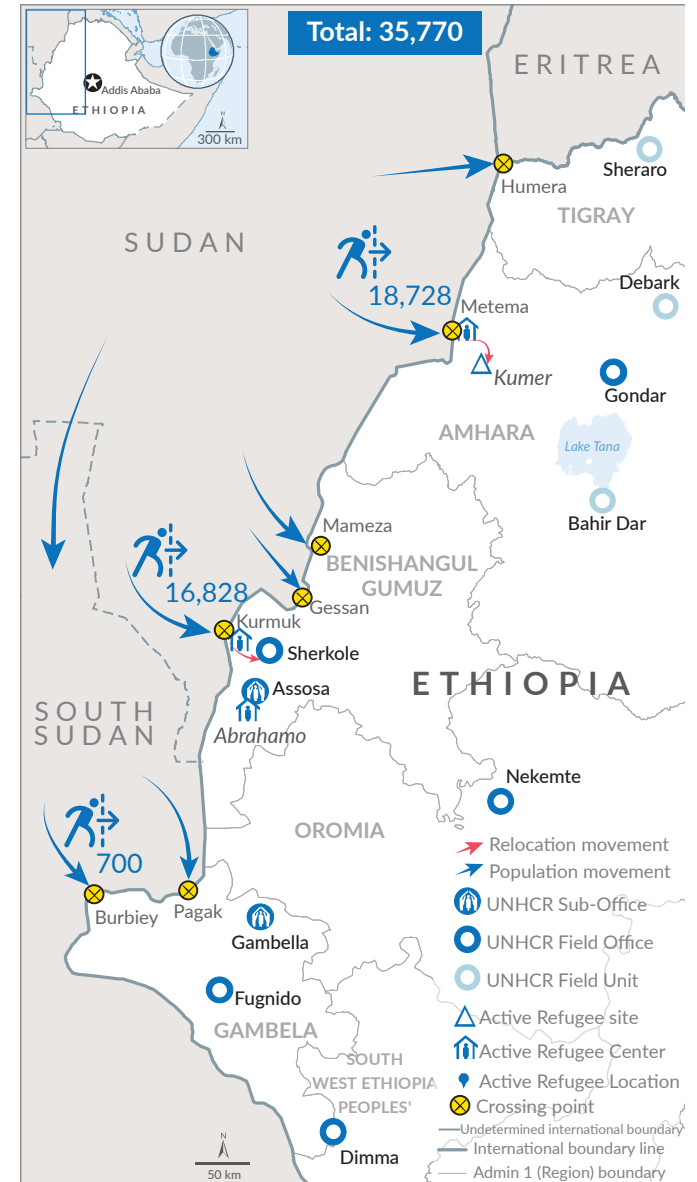
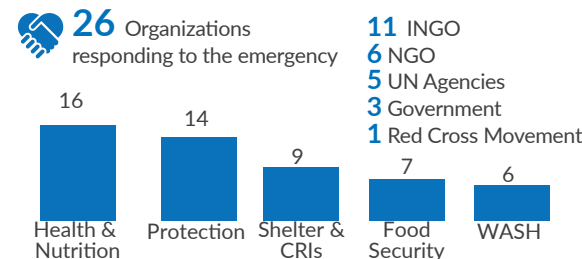
Individuals relocated from Kurmuk TC to Sherkole camp






Nationality breakdown





Partnership



Sector	Response	Priorities / Challenges	Partners
 Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kurmuk border remains closed on the Sudanese side. The number of new arrivals is increasing by 50-60 individuals every week through other border crossing points, including Gessan, Akandayo, Dulshalo and Shatol kebeles. RRS and UNHCR screened some 1,000 people and registered 1,271 arrivals in Kurmuk. To date, 1,364 Sudanese and South Sudanese nationals have been relocated and registered in Sherkole camp. 300 individuals were counselled at the protection desk in Kurmuk Transit Center. Key concerns are registration, relocation to Sherkole camp, food, shelter, health, and Core Relief Items (CRIs). The Metema border point remains open, with activities resuming in all three sites. Protection desks were serving up to 100 individuals per day. In Kurmuk, 3,600 most vulnerable individuals have so far been identified by UNHCR protection team and given priority for food and CRIs distributions. In Metema, 17 persons with multiple vulnerabilities, including health-related issues were identified. Home visits were paid to 44 individuals, who were referred to RRS for CRI support. So far, 657 persons with specific needs have been registered in the data base. UNHCR provided protection and assistance to 200 unaccompanied children in Kurmuk. Foster families and custodians received CRIs and nutrition assistance. In Metema, Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) conducted home-to-home monitoring for 465 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) who received psychosocial first aid while 332 new UASCs were identified. Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were conducted for 10 children; 288 children participated in activities in child-friendly spaces. 109 refugees in Kumer site and 150 in Kurmuk TC benefitted from Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness sessions. Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Development and Inter-church Aid Commission (DICAC) provided psychosocial first aid to 100 individuals, distributed 500 flyers on GBV awareness and PSEA education to 100 individuals. 4,839 women and girls in Kurmuk and 32 women in Kumer site received dignity kits. The food pause compelled asylum-seekers and their children in BSGR to resort to alternative income generating activities, including gold mining. Plan International Ethiopia is working to assess children's health, risks of GBV, and child labor. UNHCR, RRS and partners including International Rescue Committee (IRC), GOAL International, Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE), Plan International Ethiopia (PIE), and Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO) conducted a visit to the Kurmuk TC, to assess the assistance provided so far and extend technical support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More resources are urgently needed to address the increasing needs of the population arriving through Kurmuk and Gessan in Benishangul Gumuz (BSGR) and Metema in Amhara region crossing points. In Metema area bordering Sudan, the security situation escalated, impeding UNHCR and partners' ability to conduct field missions and continue with screening/pre-registration activities. While movement restrictions for staff have been lifted in Metema border area, the disruption of mobile internet connectivity is greatly impacting communication, access to online resources, and business continuity in general. UNHCR and partners have limited access to refugees and asylum-seekers in the Gessan and Almahal areas of the BSGR, due to rains, flooding and the volatile security situation. 	<p>RRS, UNHCR, RaDO, DICAC, PIE, IOM, UNICEF, IHS, DRMO, EMT, ANE, GOAL, Red Cross, Community volunteers</p>

Sector	Response	Priorities / Challenges	Partners
 Shelter/ Core Relief Items (CRI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together with RRS and Benishangul Gumuz regional government, UNHCR is working to identify a location for a new refugee site. • In Benishangul Gumuz Region, 80 tents and 20 hangars have been built in the Kurmuk TC, while 77 emergency shelters have been erected in Sherkole camp with 108 still to be completed. Five tents were also set up at Gessan entry point. • In Kumer site, 12 (out of 20 planned) hangars have been completed, while 1.8 km road and two culverts have been finalized. Sandbags were distributed to 447 families to strengthen their tents against rain and storm and prevent rainwater penetration. To date, 1,600 tents have been pitched in Kumer site. • CRIs were distributed to 2,240 individuals in Kurmuk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Kurmuk TC, 20 recently constructed emergency shelter hangars will be rehabilitated, due to leaking plastic sheet roofs. • Additional emergency shelters are urgently required to ensure the timely relocation of refugees from Kurmuk TC to Sherkole refugee camp. • The installation of solar lighting was recommended to enhance the security in Kumer settlement. 	UNHCR, RRS, ANE, UNFPA, IHS, IOM, NRC, PIE, IRC
 WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kumer site and Kurmuk TC are experiencing a shortage of water supply and sanitation facilities. In Kumer, an average 8.5 liters are distributed per person/day (l/p/d), while in Kurmuk TC, it is 20 l/p/d. The considerable distance between the water trucking source and both sites poses challenges in meeting the current needs. • To increase the current sanitation level, three additional latrine blocks are being built in Kumer site, with four additional blocks planned. Currently, the site has 15 functional latrine blocks. • In Kurmuk TC, six latrines and showers have been constructed so far. • The person-to-latrine ratio in Kumer settlement is 1:158, and in Kurmuk TC 1:100, both being below the emergency standard. • 16 hygiene promoters in Kumer settlement and 4 in Kurmuk TC are disseminating hygiene messages and facilitating campaigns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kurmuk TC is still in dire need of potable water, despite the recent establishment of a water supply from a nearby pond. • In Kumer site, water delivered through trucking is not sufficient, causing long queues at water collection points. In light of the ongoing rainy season, immediate drilling of a borehole is vital to reduce the cost of water trucking. • The refugee community in Kumer needs to be sensitized on the proper use of latrines, the importance of ensuring clean water containers, the importance of maintaining overall hygienic practices, the amount of available water, and the importance of using water with chlorine. 	IHS, Oxfam, UNICEF, ANE, IRC, PIE

Sector	Response	Priorities / Challenges	Partners
 Health & Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR and partners, together with the Ethiopian Red Cross, provided two ambulances to ensure timely transportation of patients to Sherkole health center. • Gende Wuha hospital provided an ambulance to transport critically ill patients from Kumer settlement to the hospital. • Nutrition screening conducted in Kurmuk indicated children requiring urgent intervention. In addition, numerous malaria cases were registered at the Akendayo health post, with no adequate medication or test kits available. As a consequence, one child, who had been referred to the health post at Kurmuk TC, eventually died. • In Metema area, Medical Teams International (MTI) conducted Outpatient Department (OPD) consultations for 512 patients, including 91 children under age of 5. Out of 148 children screened for malnutrition, nine (9) Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), and two (2) Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases were identified. Kumer health post staff conducted antenatal care visits (ANC) of 21 mothers; 23 women were educated about family planning. • There is a cholera outbreak in the Metema areas, with 11 new Cholera cases identified in Kumer settlement, including three (3) fatalities. Currently, 21 cases are under treatment at the Metema hospital and the Cholera Treatment Center in Kumer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurmuk TC faces a continuing and substantial shortage in healthcare services and medical supplies. The influx of refugees and asylum-seekers has increased needs for medication and additional capacities to provide adequate health care services. • In Kumer site, a high number of diarrhea cases was reported. Due to the limited water supply, people are compelled to fetch water from a nearby river. To address this gap, it is recommended to increase water quantities on the site, and to intensify hygiene promotion activities around water collection, transportation, storage, handling and usage. 	GOAL, Emergency Medical Team (MoH), WHO, RRS, MSF-H, CUAMM, IMC, CVT, DICAC, RaDO, PIE, MTI, IRC, IOM, EMT, Kurmuk Woreda health office.
 Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR, through its partner GOAL, provided 800 families in Kurmuk Woreda/district with protection sensitive dry food assistance. 500 families received firewood for cooking from UNHCR's partner Natural Resource and Environmental Protection (NRDEP). UNHCR, jointly with RRS, provided 500 CRI kits to the most vulnerable families. • 4 boxes (800 packs) of High Energy Biscuits (HEBs) were distributed to young children and lactating mothers at Kurmuk's primary school in BSGR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Kurmuk, despite the ongoing distribution of HEBs to young children and lactating mothers, instances of acute malnutrition have been identified in three kebeles (Akendayo, Dulshitalo, Dulhode) calling for immediate attention. 	UNHCR, IHS, ANE, RRS, GOAL, Samaritan's Purse, PIE