

SUDAN SITUATION

2 – 9 October 2023



An oral cholera vaccination campaign is helping contain outbreaks in Kumer site, Amhara region in Ethiopia.
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Highlights

The ongoing clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that started on 15 April 2023 have continued for 177 days as of 9 October.

The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Clementine Nkweta-Salami, issued a [statement](#) expressing outrage at reports that six displaced people were killed and about 2,300 left homeless after their shelters were burnt during clashes near Hasahisa camp, Central Darfur, on 26 September.

In a separate [statement](#), Ms. Nkweta-Salami said half of Sudan's population (24.7M) now require humanitarian aid and protection as the conflict, displacement, and disease outbreaks threaten to consume the entire country.

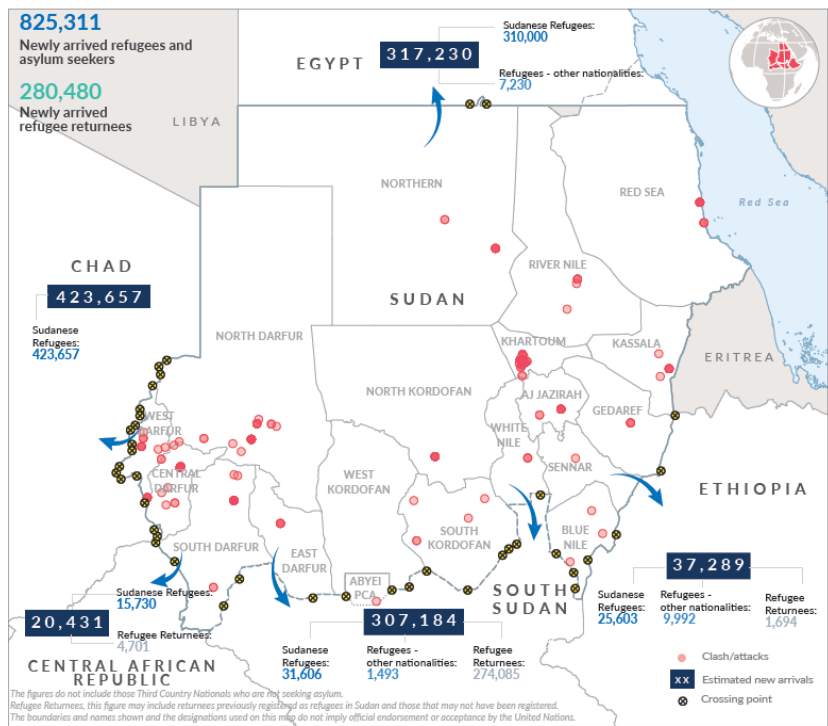
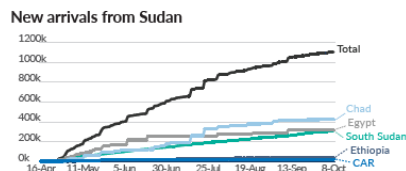
The World Food Programme (WFP) said in a [press release](#) that it has resumed food distributions for refugees in Ethiopia, including new arrivals who have fled the conflict in Sudan.

OVERVIEW: There are now over 5.7 million forcibly displaced due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, including 4.4 million internally and over 1.1 million in neighbouring countries. Sudan was already hosting large refugee populations before being impacted by this new emergency and, like hosting countries, needs additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance, including for those who have been secondarily displaced within the country. Urgent needs include 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 especially 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.

5,722,139 Forcibly Displaced
4,425,083 IDPs in Sudan

1,105,791 Newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers and returnees
191,265 Self-relocated Refugees in Sudan

Arrivals by population and estimated gender type



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- The security situation in parts of Darfur has continued to deteriorate, including in Hasahisa camp in Zalingei (Central Darfur), and in Kario camp (East Darfur).
- With state authorities pushing for school resumption, the plight of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) taking refuge in schools across Sudan is a pressing concern, as they have nowhere else to go.
- A UN interagency joint humanitarian convoy, carrying UNHCR supplies, has been on hold since 3 October, delaying the delivery of plastic tarpaulins, mosquito nets, and medicines from Kosti (White Nile) to Darfur.

Updates by Location

Darfur

In West Darfur, local partner Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery (SORR) completed the distribution of Core Relief Items (CRIs) in Ardamata (El Geneina locality), reaching a total of 2,000 households.

In South Darfur, civilian displacements have continued to be reported in Nyala town due to renewed clashes in the area.

In East Darfur, a growing number of refugees, especially women and adolescent girls, are leaving camps for safety and work in Ad Du'ayn town. Physical violence, limited job prospects, and insufficient food are among the reasons mentioned by the women and girls for leaving the camps. The trend has raised concern about the safety of women and girls both inside and outside of the camps.

In North Darfur, UNHCR is working closely with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) to tackle outbreaks and other serious health challenges in the IDP gathering areas, including cholera, malaria, skin diseases and whooping cough.

Kordofan States

Despite the prevailing security challenges, UNHCR's partners continue their activities in the state. Save the Children has continued to organize social cohesion and peacebuilding programs, while legal partner Mutawinat visited different child protection units. International Aid Services (IAS) distributed CRIs and hygiene kits.

White Nile State

WFP has informed UNHCR that it would provide food assistance for all IDPs in 259 gathering sites and in Khor Ajwal camp.

UNHCR is working closely with the Ministry of Social Development to support the enrolment (collection of biographical data, including biometric data) of IDPs in the State. UNHCR's role will focus on capacity building with the Ministry to carry this out.

Blue Nile State

UNHCR received reports of new arrivals from Ethiopia in the border areas, particularly in Menza. The Commission for Refugees (COR) estimated the number of new arrivals between 200 and 400 individuals and has since deployed mobile teams for assessments. Since early August, 666 new arrivals have been received at the border with Ethiopia.

Gedaref

On 3 October, UNHCR received official notice from the Gedaref Wali (Governor) and Security Committee lifting access restrictions for refugees and asylum seekers entering Sudan. These restrictions had especially affected Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees who had fled the conflict in Khartoum to neighbouring Ethiopia and have now sought to return to Sudan due to unrest in Ethiopia's Amhara region.

Wad Madani (Jazirah State)

UNHCR is actively exploring options to help refugees stranded in Khartoum relocate to safer areas, including engaging with the Area Commissioner of Refugees (ACOR) and Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) to assist with documentation and facilitate the relocation process.

UNHCR's partner, Action on Disability and Development (ADD), provided CRI kits to 186 IDP households at Ibn Roshd school in Madani al Kubra locality. ADD has initiated consultations and coordination with HAC to undertake an assessment on the feasibility of cash assistance for shelter.

Wadi Halfa (Northern State)

UNHCR has completed mapping 37 gathering sites, revealing that 46 per cent of displaced people are staying in schools, 30 per cent in mosques, 14 per cent in public buildings, and 5 per cent in abandoned private structures. As classes resume, special attention will be required for those staying in schools.

UNHCR met Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers who had initially come in hopes of entering Egypt. They requested to be registered to access services and livelihood opportunities in the area. The group's leader indicated that about 500 asylum seekers are in the area (Wadi Halfa), with only 25 of them previously registered with COR in Khartoum.

CHAD

Highlights

- As of 6 October, UNHCR counted more than 430,000 refugees in eastern Chad.
- A total of 1,947 children at risk, including 164 unaccompanied children and 736 separated children, have been identified as of 6 October.

- Since the beginning of the emergency, a total of 81,555 medical consultations have been carried out. Acute respiratory infections, watery diarrhoea and malaria remain the three most frequent pathologies.

Relocation

A total of 176,861 people in 47,654 households have been relocated from the border areas to seven existing camps and four new ones. They are in the provinces of Ouaddai (114,328), Sila (46,340) and Wadi Fira (16,193).

Protection

As of 6 October, 1,947 children at risk, including 164 unaccompanied children and 736 separated children, have been identified by child protection actors in the three provinces of Ouaddai, Sila and Wadi Fira. They were referred to the relevant partners who provided psychosocial support and medical assistance, while the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been helping with family tracing and other support.

Some 54,000 children in Sila, Wadi Fira and Ouaddai, including 310 from the nearby host community, received psychosocial support.

Since the onset of the emergency, a series of awareness raising sessions were facilitated, reaching over 30,100 people with key messages on child protection, GBV, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and more. Refugees were also familiarized with reporting mechanisms and services available in the camps.

Health and Nutrition

Health: A total of 81,555 medical consultations have been carried out since the start of the emergency. Acute respiratory infections, watery diarrhoea and malaria remain the three most frequent pathologies.

One hundred nine new births were registered during the reporting period, bringing the total number of assisted deliveries so far to 999.

A total of 6,563 individuals received treatment for mental health.

Nutrition: A total of 50,550 children have been screened for malnutrition of which 18,278 were treated for moderate acute malnutrition (11,660) and severe acute malnutrition (6,618). 10,322 pregnant and breastfeeding women were also screened, and 1,159 among them treated for malnutrition.

Shelter Infrastructure and WASH

The supply of water in Zabout, Djabal and Goz Amir camps in Sila province remains inadequate. Partner Lakar Missionen International (LMI) has just completed drilling one water well in Zabout camp, while work is ongoing to drill a second well, which should improve the water situation.

IT/Telecommunication

ICRC has installed five antennas in Adré, Mitché, and Arkoum 1 and 2 camps to facilitate communication and enable the refugees to stay in touch with family and friends.

UNHCR is setting up internet services at the new Hadjer Hadid field office, in Farchana, which is expected to be ready within a week.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Highlights

- As of 8 October, a total of 9,447 person have been biometrically registered; 89 per cent of them are women and children.
- To date, a total of 2,045 individuals have relocated to Korsi where they can access protection support and services.

- To promote the inclusion of refugees in the national education system, support classes were offered to 273 students at the Préfectorale and N'Guere-domo schools in Birao.

Response Overview

Since the beginning of the crisis, more than 20,000 people have arrived in CAR from Sudan, including 15,476 Sudanese refugees and 4,701 Central African returnees, with the majority being women and children. To date a total of 2,045 individuals have settled in Korsi, where registration is ongoing, and assistance is being delivered.

Registration and relocation

A total of 9,447 individuals (2,716 households) have been biometrically registered. In total 792 assistance cards were issued and distributed, granting families access to assistance.

A total of 2,045 individuals have relocated to Korsi since the exercise started in late May, where they can access protection and services. However, the relocations have now been put on hold due to the rainy season which has rendered the roads impassable.

Protection

UNHCR's partners, INTERSOS carried out 21 individual counselling sessions last week, reaching people with specific needs (PSN), including person living with disabilities, elderly people and pregnant women living in difficult conditions. The agency also identified and assisted 15 vulnerable women, including survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GVB) and breastfeeding mothers, distributing food as well as birth kits for women with young babies. It has also conducted awareness sessions for host community women, educating 149 women, men, and girls and boys on the types of gender-based violence, prevention methods, and available services.

In Korsi, 78 refugees, including parents and teachers, participated in a session meant to raise their awareness on children's rights and the tools to use and available services to promote those rights.

A total of 205 Persons with Specific Needs (PSN) were identified last week, including women at risk, unaccompanied and separated children, elderly people and persons living with disabilities. They would be provided with appropriate support.

A protection monitoring mission in Am-Dafock, at the border with Sudan, found that a group of women and children have temporarily settled in a village called Matala-Dahal (30 kilometers inside CAR), after having escaped the conflict in Sudan. They are stuck there as the road conditions would not allow further inland movement to reach Birao due to the rainy season.

Education

To facilitate the inclusion of refugees in the national education system, support classes were offered to 273 students at the Préfectorale and N'Guere-domo schools in Birao.

Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH), with the support of UNICEF, built six tents at the Nguere-domo and Birao Prefectural schools, as well as at the Birao Lycée Moderne and the Korsi site.

The Alliance Française distributed teaching materials, including USB keys containing lessons for teaching French as a foreign language, school registers, and notebooks for teachers to support their work.

Health

NOURRIR, Médecins sans Frontière Spain (MSF-S), and International Medical Corps (IMC) jointly carried out 349 medical consultations during the week. Malaria, watery diarrhea, digestive bacterial infections, and acute respiratory infections were the main pathologies recorded. Additionally, 24 prenatal and 12 postnatal consultations were conducted.

Shelter, CRIs and Food Distribution

NOURRIR distributes core relief items (CRIs) to 313 newly arrived refugee households in Korsi, including blankets, sleeping mats, jerrycans, and buckets to help them restart their lives in the new environment.

WFP provided NOURRIR with dry food to prepare cooked meals for about 100 new arrivals for the period of one month. NOURRIR provided nutritional support to 27 children during the week.

WASH

NOURRIR conducted awareness raising sessions on proper utilization of latrines and shower rooms, reaching 940 households.

TGH, with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has started constructing five latrines and showers blocks close to the Korsi health centre.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- As of 8 October, 37,289 refugees and asylum-seekers (17,639 families), including 1,694 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia.
- The cholera outbreak in Kumer site has been contained leading to a closure of the cholera treatment center.
- 874 vulnerable families received Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to cover their immediate needs, including food.

Population Movements

As of 8 October, 37,289 refugees and asylum-seekers (17,639 families), including 1,694 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia. Of these, 50.7 per cent crossed through the Metema entry point in Amhara, 44 per cent through the Kurmuk entry point in Benishangul-Gumuz Region (BGR) and 1.9 per cent through different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey). Most of the new arrivals are Sudanese (68.7%), followed by Eritreans (22.2%), and South Sudanese (4.4%).

Protection

In Kurmuk (BGR), in response to reports of approximately 500 Sudanese refugees spontaneously returning to Sudan, UNHCR and the government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) held a meeting with refugee community leaders. They clarified that the rumors of ongoing or planned aid distribution in the Sudan side of Kurmuk were not accurate due to access constraints. Community leaders subsequently initiated awareness campaigns in the refugee sites. Meanwhile, it was noted that some of those who had spontaneously returned to Sudan, later came back to Ethiopia, presumably after hearing news of the cash distribution.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) attended to eight survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) at Kurmuk, providing psychosocial support and referral services, among other things. In Kumer, 25 GBV and Child Protection (CP) cases were attended to during the week.

A newly arrived family with eight individuals, was relocated from the Gessan entry point to Sherkole refugee camp in BGR. They were provided with the necessary support, including temporary accommodation.

Child Protection

During the past week, 17 separated children, eight of them girls, were identified and registered at Kurmuk. This brings to 521 the number of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC) registered in BSGR since last April, 224 of whom are girls. All are receiving comprehensive child protection support including foster family arrangements where possible. To ensure these children receive the parental support and care they need, 158 parents and caregivers have been included in the list for cash distribution.

On average, 280 children were engaged in daily indoor and outdoor recreational activities at the Kurmuk transit center's temporary Child-Friendly Space (CFS). They were also given high-energy biscuits during these activities.

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provided MPCA to 874 vulnerable families at the Kurmuk transit center in BSGR. Each of these families received ETB 6,300 (approximately USD 113). Most of the beneficiaries mentioned that they intend to use this assistance to purchase food for themselves and their children. The beneficiaries were selected based on certain vulnerability criteria, prioritizing families with malnourished children, UASC or OVC, large families, female-headed families, and those with persons with disabilities.

Food security

UNHCR, RRS, World Food Programme (WFP), and Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) are resuming food distribution at Kurmuk and nearby areas for the new arrivals from Sudan. This comes after receiving exceptional authorization for refugee populations in Ethiopia, despite a nationwide pause on food distribution due to 'coordinated food diversions.'

Health

The cholera outbreak in Kumer has been contained, with no new infections recorded since 21 September. The Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC) has since been closed, marking the end of the outbreak. Nevertheless, preventive measures, including community awareness sessions continue.

Medical Teams International (MTI) provided primary healthcare services at Kumer settlement, attending to 606 patients, including 148 children under five. The beneficiaries included patients from the surrounding host community.

Out of 70 children under five years and 30 pregnant and lactating mothers that were screened for malnutrition in Kumer, 20 exhibited signs of malnutrition, including 11 children and nine mothers. They were all referred for nutrition support and treatment. Similarly, 261 patients were attended by UNICEF's Mobile Health and Nutrition Team (MHNT) at the transit centre in Metema.

In Kurmuk, RRS has continued to provide health services at the Transit Centre, with 417 patients, including 98 children under five, receiving consultations and treatment. Malaria remains a significant health issue in the area compounded by a shortage of medical supplies.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) has resumed ambulance services at Kurmuk after weeks of interruption caused by fuel shortages.

WASH

The per capita water distribution at Kumer site and Metema transit centre in Amhara, stood at 9.4 liters per person per day (l/p/d), and 12.45 l/p/d, respectively. Community Hygiene Promoters (CHPs) continued with house-to-house awareness-raising on cholera prevention, environmental and personal hygiene and on how to keep water containers, such as jerry cans clean.

At the Kurmuk transit centre, refugees and asylum seekers received 10 liters of water per person per day, with 146 latrines available to serve the population.

Site development, Shelter and CRIs

Intense rainfall in Kurmuk had caused damage to five communal shelters, three waiting rooms and a family tent, affecting several families. UNHCR and its partners have quickly repaired the damaged structures and are supporting the affected families to return to their shelters.

In the Amhara region, a technical team, including local government offices, RRS, UNHCR, ANE, Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (HIS), and MTI, conducted a site visit to Awulala, a new location near Kumer designated by the authorities for the establishment of a new settlement. The team found that this 24-hectare site is easily accessible, adjacent to the main road, and includes an elementary school used by local students. It has the capacity to accommodate 3,715 refugees. The shelter team has finalized the layout of the site for its development.

EGYPT

Highlights

- Since mid-April, almost 67,000 new arrivals from Sudan have been registered, 89 per cent of them Sudanese.
- UNHCR distributed emergency cash assistance to over 41,000 new arrivals from Sudan.
- UNHCR and Save the Children International (SCI) distributed backpacks and various educational materials to 300 Sudanese students studying at three community schools in Aswan.

Protection and Registration

A total of 100,175 new arrivals from Sudan have been given appointments for registration, of which 66,997 (67%) have already been registered. 89 per cent of them are Sudanese nationals while South Sudanese (4%) and Eritreans (4%) are the other main nationalities registered. Most Sudanese (88%) originate from Khartoum, while more than 4% are from the Darfur region.

UNHCR is enhancing its Alternative Care Programme to support the growing number of vulnerable children, including unaccompanied minors. As part of this effort, UNHCR trained 14 caregivers and host families on child protection principles, roles and responsibilities of caregiver and positive parenting techniques.

Cash Assistance

UNHCR is accelerating the distribution of cash to new arrivals from Sudan, so far providing one-off cash assistance to 41,759 of the 50,237 eligible beneficiaries. The distribution followed a rapid needs assessment which informed the eligibility criteria for the emergency cash distribution to address some of their pressing needs.

Education

As part of our strategy to support the integration of newly arrived refugee students from Sudan into the education system, UNHCR, in collaboration with our partner SCI, has provided 300 backpacks and various educational materials to Sudanese students studying at three community schools in the Aswan governorate. In the coming days, an additional 100 backpacks and additional supplies will be distributed to students enrolled in other schools within the region.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- 10,734 individuals arrived in South Sudan in the last week, bringing the total numbers of arrivals since April to 304,387. 98 per cent of them entered via the Joda/Renk border point.
- UNHCR border monitoring teams noted a significant increase in the number of Sudanese refugees entering South Sudan, with 3,707 of them recorded compared to 1,687 the previous week.
- For the first time since the start of the emergency response, the malnutrition rate in all new arrival hosting locations fell below the 10 per cent emergency threshold.
- Water provision ranged between 10 and 17 litres per person per day across all new arrival hosting locations. The most significant improvement was noted in Malakal which supplied 17 litres per person per day.

Protection

Arrival trends: UNHCR border monitoring teams noted a 119 per cent increase in the number of Sudanese refugees entering South Sudan, with 3,707 of them crossing into the country last week compared to 1,687 recorded in the previous week. The reason for this sharp rise remains unclear, however initial reports suggest that Sudanese nationals staying close to the border may have been forced to cross the border into South Sudan to escape an upsurge in fighting and/or to access basic services. UNHCR protection teams are undertaking more rigorous assessments to better understand this trend.

Registration: More than 33,000 refugees have arrived in South Sudan since the start of the Sudan refugee emergency, with 66 per cent registered thus far. The top three refugee hosting locations are Wedwil

Refugee Settlement, hosting 28 per cent of the refugees, followed by Gorom Refugee Settlement (26 per cent) and Maban refugee camps (26 per cent).

Refugee relocation: The relocation of refugees from the transit centers (Abyei and Renk) to refugee hosting areas remains stalled due to insecurity and poor road/weather conditions. In Renk 4,826 refugees are awaiting relocation.

Onward Transportation

Over 144,878 people have been supported with onward transportation since the start of the emergency, including 27,990 refugees and asylum seekers supported by UNHCR.

Returnee's onward movement: the onward movement of South Sudanese returnees has continued from Renk to Malakal and from Malakal to Wau and Juba.

Health and Nutrition

Nutrition: For the first time since the start of the emergency response, the malnutrition rate in all new arrival hosting locations fell below the 10 per cent emergency threshold. Out of 2,625 children screened for malnutrition across the transit and reception centres, only eight per cent were diagnosed as moderately or severely malnourished, marking a significant improvement from the previous week's 13 per cent. The most significant improvement was noted in Panakuach reception centre, which recorded zero malnutrition cases among new arrivals screened during the week.

Health: There is an urgent need for distribution of mosquito nets in Malakal, Aweil and Renk where malaria is endemic.

Water and Sanitation

Water provision ranged between 10 and 17 litres per person per day (l/p/d) across all new arrival hosting locations. The most significant improvement was noted in Malakal which exceeded the minimum emergency standard of 15 l/p/d by providing 17 l/p/d during the past week.

The latrine to beneficiary ratio ranged between 1 latrine to 17 people (1:17) in Gorom and 1:183 in Renk, compared to the standard of 1 latrine to 20-50 beneficiaries in a humanitarian emergency response. This is nevertheless an improvement from the 1:200 latrine to beneficiary ratio recorded in Renk the previous week, which has been achieved following the construction of five semi-permanent latrine blocks. Nonetheless, WASH actors continue to warn that even with the completion of projected latrine construction in the coming months, there will still be significant latrine coverage gaps threatening the health and safety of new arrivals.

Shelter and NFI

Four new communal shelters were constructed at the Bulukat transit center in Malakal during the week, bringing the total number of communal shelters in the transit centre to eight. Meanwhile in Renk, only 28 per cent of the transit centre's population of nearly 7,000 individuals have adequate shelter. An additional seven communal shelters are required to meet the needs.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

Revised Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) – May-December 2023

- On 4 September, UNHCR and 64 partner organisations published a revised inter-agency [Sudan Emergency Regional Refugee Response Plan – May to December 2023](#), which is appealing for **USD 1,004,761,779** to provide essential aid and protection to over 1.8 million people expected to arrive in five neighbouring countries by the end of 2023, fleeing ongoing conflict in Sudan. As of 10 October, total funding of almost USD 296.2 million has been recorded or **29%** of the funding requirements ([Refugee Funding Tracker](#)).
- RRP Summary: [Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan \(May-December 2023\) – At a Glance](#).

Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) – May-December 2023

- The revised inter-agency [Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\) for Sudan \(May-December 2023\)](#) requires **USD 2.56 billion** to help 18 million people. As of 9 October, the total funding for the HRP had reached some USD 842 million or almost **33%** of the requirements ([OCHA FTS](#)).

Revised UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – May-December 2023

- On 4 September, UNHCR issued a revised [Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal \(May-December 2023\)](#) to reflect increased needs of **USD 506,528,613**. As of 4 October, the total available funding for the appeal was USD 154.4 million or **30%** of the funding requirements ([Sudan Situation Funding Update](#)).

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](#)
- 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](#)).
- [UNHCR CAR – Protection Brief on the Sudan Situation – September 2023](#)
- [Sudan Protection Brief-September 2023](#)
- [Sudan Protection Brief \(Darfur\)-October 2023](#)

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