

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

38,994

Total new arrivals in need of international protection

35,922

Sudanese and Non-Sudanese refugees/asylum seekers

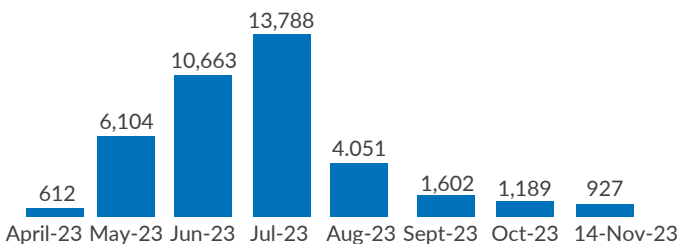
3,072

Ethiopian refugee returnees

Gender breakdown

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

Monthly arrival trends | April - November 2023



Relocation

9,383

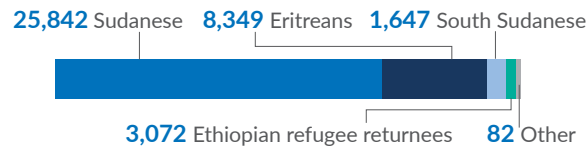
Individuals relocated from Metema TC to Kumer site

1,364

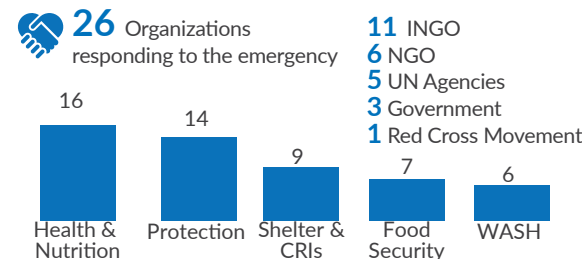
Individuals relocated from Kurmuk TC to Sherkole camp







Nationality breakdown





Partnership



Sector	Response	Priorities / Challenges	Partners
 Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection counselling and immediate lifesaving assistance, including nutrition packages and CRIs, were provided to 104 new arrivals at the Abrhamo reception center in Benishangul Gumuz region. • Level 3 biometric registration of refugees is ongoing at the Metema transit centre (Amhara region), documenting 1,086 individuals so far. Registration will support the newly arrived refugees to access essential humanitarian assistance and services, including food. • In both Kurmuk and Metema, children were engaged in daily play-based activities at the temporary Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS), which have been established in the settlements. In addition, psychosocial support and post-traumatic stress counseling were provided to the most vulnerable children. • A total of 922 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC) have been identified in Kurmuk (590) and Metema (332). They are all receiving the needed support, • In Metema, local administrators, law enforcement officials, Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) staff, caregivers, and selected members of the refugee community were trained on the importance of child protection and related topics. Moreover, in both Kurmuk and Kumer, discussions were held with a total of 137 members of the Child Protection Committee (CPC), Foster Parents Association (FPA) and caregivers on child protection issues, identification of vulnerable children and referral pathways. • Training and mass awareness sessions on GBV and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) were conducted reaching 350 individuals in Kurmuk and 120 refugees in Kumer. With the support of partners, GBV survivors in both locations were provided with psychosocial support and referral services. The total number of GBV cases reported in Kumer reached 66. • UNHCR and its partners are continuously identifying persons with special needs to ensure they are provided with the right assistance. In Metema, 80 Persons with Special Needs (PSNs) were identified, bringing the total to 799. 45 children with disabilities and other vulnerable individuals received assistive devices, clothes, and CRIs, while 275 families with elderly members at the Kurmuk transit centre received CRIs. • Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance was distributed to 875 vulnerable families at the Kurmuk transit centre with ETB 6,300 (approximately USD 113) each. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Benishangul Gumuz region, the Yabus entry point remains inaccessible due to road and weather conditions. • The mobile and internet networks in the Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz regions have remained highly unreliable with frequent and prolonged disruptions. This is hampering communication and coordination efforts. • In Metema, the concerns raised in the protection desks include lack of food and Core Relief items (CRIs), and cases of physical abuse. In Kumer settlement, children raised concerns including limited access to basic services and education. 	RRS, UNHCR, RaDO, DICAC, PIE, IOM, UNICEF, IHS, DRMO, EMT, ANE, GOAL, Red Cross, Community volunteers

Sector	Response	Priorities / Challenges	Partners
 Health & Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cholera outbreak in Kumer has been contained, with no new infections recorded since 21 September. The Cholera Treatment Centre has since been closed, while UNHCR and partners continue with preventive measures including community awareness sessions. In Kurmuk, medical consultations were provided for an average (weekly) of 422 patients, including 86 under-five refugee children. Antimalarial drugs and rapid diagnostic test kits were donated to the clinic. In Kumer settlement and Metema transit centre, on average (weekly) more than 500 refugees and host community patients, including 148 children under five, received primary healthcare services and 36 others underwent Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) screening. Out of 156 children under five years that were screened for malnutrition at the Kurmuk transit centre, 31 were referred for treatment. In Kumer, out of 1,130 people screened for malnutrition, including 952 children under five and 202 pregnant and lactating mothers, 183 were identified as malnourished and referred for treatment. With the support from health partners, mobile health teams continue to provide healthcare services at the transit site. In Kurmuk, awareness messages were provided to a total of 1,109 individuals on maternal and child health issues (570 people), reproductive health (132 women) and mental health (407 people). To protect refugee and host community families from HIV/AIDS infections and promote family planning, 25,776 male condoms were distributed in Kurmuk. Ambulance service has resumed at Kurmuk after weeks of interruption caused by fuel shortages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malaria remains a significant health issue in Kurmuk. Whereas upper and lower respiratory tract infections and watery diarrheal diseases were the most treated in both Kurmuk and Metema areas. In Kurmuk, there is still a need for malaria test kits, anti-malaria and other essential medicine. Nutrition supplies essential for the treatment of malnutrition for children remain inadequate. Limited availability of medications for chronic and mental illnesses along with inadequate diagnostic capacities remain as challenges in Kumer and other health posts. 	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"> A total of 7,760 refugees-6,538 in Kumer settlement and 1,222 at Metema transit center received their monthly food ration. At the Metema border, high energy biscuits were distributed to 459 people who are staying in makeshift shelters, pending relocation to Awlala site. In Kurmuk, a total of 9,067 people, including both those at the transit center and those residing within host communities, received food. Moreover, 6,390 individuals received firewood for cooking and other domestic needs, and 2,607 individuals among those living with host communities received cash assistance to facilitate the transportation to their temporary shelters. Earlier, the government's Disaster Risk Management Commission (DRMC) delivered four trucks of food at Kurmuk for distribution to new arrivals. 	Very high level of acute malnutrition with proxy Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) 18.2%; October 2023	UNHCR, IHS, ANE, RRS, GOAL, Samaritan's Purse, PIE
 Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions were held with the relevant local authorities in Amhara region on inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers into local schools. Refugee incentive teachers were registered to receive appropriate training before they start teaching in the elementary schools at Kumer and Awlala sites. Following the back-to-school campaign conducted in the Kumer settlement and surrounding areas, students have begun to register at the Kumer Elementary School to attend classes from one to eighth grade. High performance tents were allocated to serve as classrooms in Kumer and Awlala sites. Also 3,200 school bags and other school supplies were made available for refugee and host community students. Education in Emergencies (EIE) programme at the Kurmuk transit centre is initiated, with 189 children currently enrolled in grade one classes. 	Unavailability of education and employment opportunities	UNHCR, RRS and Protection partners

Sector	Response	Priorities / Challenges	Partners
 Shelter/ Core Relief Items (CRI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR and its partners are making progress in developing Awlala site, Amhara region, to receive new arrivals from the transit centre at the Metema border. 40 family tents have been pitched and a water tank (10,000 litres) has been installed with the piping completed. Construction of two latrines and two shower blocks, with five cubicles each, were finalized while construction of additional latrines and showers is ongoing. UNHCR and its partners repaired hangars, waiting rooms and family tents at the Kurmuk transit center that were damaged by heavy rainfall. In Sherkole camp (BGRS), construction for 16 shelters has progressed. 	<p>Additional land is needed to accommodate over 16,000 new arrivals in Kurmuk.</p>	<p>UNHCR, RRS, ANE, UNFPA, IHS, IOM, NRC, PIE, IRC</p>
 WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugees and asylum seekers in Kurmuk and Sherkole camp (where some new arrivals are hosted) received 10 liters of water per person per day (l/p/d) and 12 l/p/d respectively. In the Amhara region, the per capita water supply stands at 11.6 l/p/d and 12.8 l/p/d at Kumer site and Metema transit centre respectively. Community Hygiene Promoters (CHPs) in collaboration with partners continued with house-to-house awareness-raising on cholera prevention, environmental and personal hygiene. Two generators at Gendewuha and Kokit (Metema, Amhara region) were repaired to improve the water supply to the two sites. 1,980 families in Kumer were provided with various items, including water treatment chemicals, buckets, washing basins, and soap, to help them keep personal and household hygiene. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kurmuk Transit Centre is still in dire need of adequate potable water despite the recent establishment of a water supply system from a nearby pond. In Kumer site, water delivered through trucking is not sufficient, causing long queues at water collection points. Immediate drilling of a borehole is vital to reduce the cost of water trucking. The current latrine to beneficiary ratio is 1:97 at Kumer and 1:100 at the Metema transit centre, falling way below the standard while in Kurmuk, stands at 1:56, which is a little above the emergency standard (1 latrine to ≤ 50 persons). A significant budgetary shortfall becomes a challenge for expanding WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services. 	<p>IHS, Oxfam, UNICEF, ANE, IRC, PIE</p>