

SUDAN SITUATION

14-20 November 2023



The government of Chad, UNHCR & partners biometrically registering new Sudanese refugees in Sila province. © UNHCR/Eugene Sibomana

Highlights

The ongoing clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that started on 15 April 2023 have continued for 219 days as of 20 November.

The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs [welcomed](#) the participation of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the Sudan Humanitarian Forum as a sign of a shared recognition of the severity of the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. He called for an unhindered access to reach all people in need, and particularly to contain the ongoing cholera outbreak. Separately, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said in an [update](#) that at least 2,525 suspected cases of acute watery diarrhoea/cholera have been reported in Sudan, including 78 associated deaths, in 27 localities across seven states.

The government of Sudan said they are “[terminating UNITAMS with immediate effect](#)” in a letter addressed to the UN Secretary-General. The government, nonetheless, said it remained committed to constructive engagements with the UN. In a related development, the Secretary-General appointed Ramtane Lamamra of Algeria as his [Personal Envoy for Sudan](#).

The UN human rights office, OHCHR, voiced alarm over reports of another ethnically motivated mass attack in the Darfur region of Sudan. In a [statement](#) on 17 November, OHCHR called on the RSF and all other parties to the conflict to respect their international humanitarian law obligations to ensure protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure. The violence and human rights abuses in Sudan have been condemned by the [European Union](#) and the [Troika](#) (Norway, UK, and USA).

UNHCR extended the Level 2 emergency status for Central African Republic (CAR) and Ethiopia (Sudan Situation) by an additional three months, following the expiration of the initial Level 2 emergency declaration on May 17. Sudan, Chad, Egypt, and South Sudan, initially included in the Level 2 emergency declaration for six months, were subsequently elevated to Level 3 emergencies.

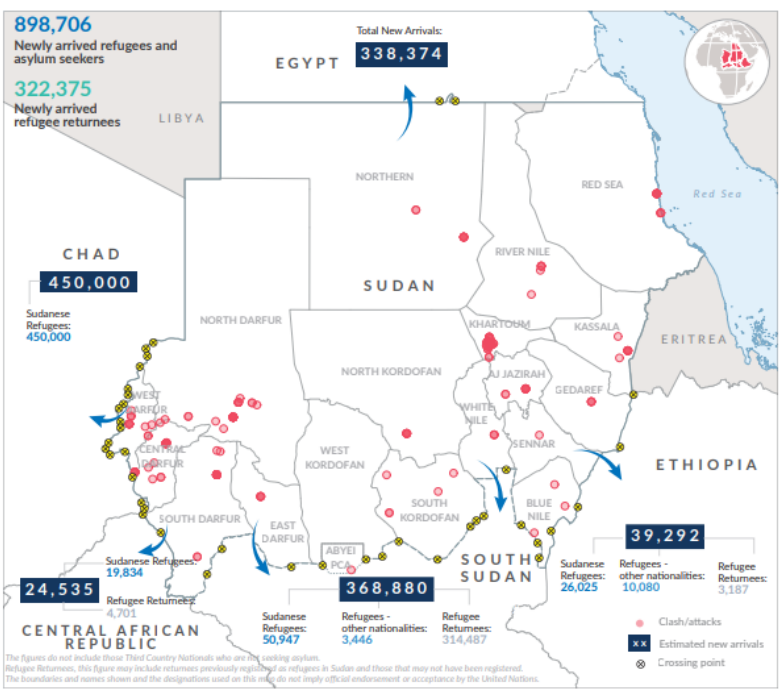
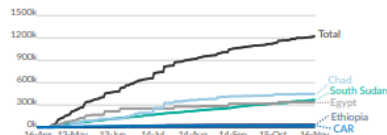
OVERVIEW: There are now nearly 6.4 million forcibly displaced due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, including 5 million internally and over 1.2 million in neighbouring countries. Sudan was already hosting large refugee populations before being impacted by this new emergency and, like hosting countries, 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.

6,371,678 Forcibly Displaced
4,955,538 IDPs in Sudan
1,221,081 Newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers and returnees
195,059 Self-relocated Refugees in Sudan

Arrivals by population and estimated gender type



New arrivals from Sudan



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- In an address to the UN Security Council on 16 November, Sudan's Representative emphasized the need for a strategic review of UNITAMS, saying that the Mission was not functioning commensurate with expectations. The Secretary-General subsequently appointed Ian Martin to lead a [strategic review](#) of UNITAMS to provide the Security Council with options on how to adapt its mandate to fit the wartime conditions.
- The Sudan Liberation Movement under the leadership of Minni Minawi (SLM-MM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) have pledged support for the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) renouncing neutrality committed in the 2020 Juba Peace Agreement.
- The worsening security conditions in Darfur disrupted the transportation of crucial humanitarian supplies and impeded the delivery of aid to the most vulnerable populations. Recent incidents involved the looting of a truck transporting medical supplies intended for UNHCR operations in East Darfur, alongside threats of looting directed at convoys in North Darfur.
- Cross-border operations from Chad have resumed on 16 November, with the first inter-agency mission arriving in Ardamata, West Darfur, for a situational analysis. Plans are underway for additional cross-border operations to North Darfur for the distribution of Core Relief Items (CRIs).
- UNHCR's partners Save the Children and Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery (SORR) distributed non-food items and shelter materials to 2,314 IDP and refugee households in Abu Jubayhah, South Kordofan and El Fasher, North Darfur, respectively.

Updates by Location

Darfur

In West Darfur, reports indicate a notable rise in the number of people returning from Chad due to a perceived stabilization in the situation over the past week. Reportedly, these are people who fled Sudan in recent weeks, and it remains unclear whether the intention is to permanently resettle in El Geneina or just to retrieve their belongings. Some reports suggest that the decision to return may have been influenced by a perceived inadequacy of available aid in the border areas of Chad.

Jazirah State

The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) issued a directive urging all humanitarian organizations to cease using tablets and smartphones for their activities. This decision follows a recent incident where HAC blocked UNHCR and its partners from accessing gathering sites due to concerns over the sensitivity of GPS data collected during site mapping exercises. UNHCR will continue to engage HAC in seeking clarification and finding alternatives to these measures.

Kassala

Last week, 122 new arrivals from Eritrea were recorded in the region, crossing through the Gergef and Gusla border points.

Fifteen tents have been erected at the reception center in Shagarab refugee camp to accommodate 75 individuals while ongoing construction of transitional shelters is completed.

Gedaref

Last week, 42 cholera cases were recorded in Um Gargour refugee camp, hosting thousands of refugees from Ethiopia. UNHCR is collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO) to facilitate vaccinations. It is also working with Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) partners and refugee community representatives to enhance sanitation measures.

Blue Nile State

UNHCR and COR facilitated the relocation of 715 new arrivals from Ethiopia, from border points to Camp 6, last week.

White Nile

The solarization of the water systems and water treatment plants has been completed in Al Kashafa and Jouri camps, benefiting an estimated 25,000 South Sudanese refugees.

A measles outbreak in the refugee camps has stabilized following a comprehensive measles vaccination campaign and other health initiatives. A decline in mortality rates, particularly among children, has also been observed in the camps.

CHAD

Highlights

- Since the start of the emergency, 450,636 refugees and asylum seekers have arrived in Chad. 104,637 of them have been registered so far.
- A total of 187,573 refugees were relocated to refugee camps in eastern Chad since the beginning of the emergency, including 1,180 last week.
- Last week, ECHO conducted a WASH monitoring mission to evaluate support required for Sudanese refugees. The mission visited several camps, including Gaga, Metché, Ourang, Arkoum, and Allacha, along with the Adré spontaneous site hosting over 140,000 new arrivals.
- Over 18,200 people received medical consultations during the past week, mainly for malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrhea and malnutrition.

Protection

UNHCR has established Information Desks at the Arkoum refugee camp to inform new arrivals about the free humanitarian services provided by UNHCR and its partners. These desks serve as platforms for refugees to voice their complaints and receive feedback from humanitarian workers.

In Arkoum (Ouaddai province), 7,782 individuals were registered last week, bringing the total number of registered new arrivals to 111,201.

Health and Nutrition

Health: Since the beginning of the emergency, a total of 166,742 medical consultations have been conducted, including 18,236 consultations in the past week. The most common health issues remain malaria, acute respiratory infections, watery diarrhoea, and malnutrition.

In addition, 7,222 individuals have received mental health treatment, and qualified health personnel have attended to 2,204 deliveries since the onset of the emergency, including 240 deliveries in the past week.

The last phase of seasonal chemoprophylaxis carried out by MSF Spain was launched last week in the Metché camp as part of prevention against malaria in children under five years old. MSF Spain has established a solar cold chain in the Metché camp, which will facilitate routine vaccination activities in the camp.

Nutrition: A total of 85,624 children under five years were screened for malnutrition since the beginning of the emergency of which 17,187 with moderate acute malnutrition and 10,055 with severe acute malnutrition were identified and treated.

Shelter Infrastructure and WASH

During the reporting period, the construction of 1,406 emergency family shelters, four community sheds and 84 latrines was completed. Cumulatively 39,900 family shelters, 64 community sheds and 5,915 latrines are serving the new arrivals from Sudan.

Three new boreholes have been finished in Allacha, Ouaddai Province, bringing the total to number of boreholes to 24. However, there is still need for drilling additional boreholes to meet the growing demands of the increasing number of new arrivals.

A total of 3,800 shelters were received to support the response in Chad, including 2800 refugee housing units (RHUs) provided by the Sweden-based Better Shelter, and 1,000 tents from the Government of Türkiye

Central African Republic (CAR)

Highlights

- Since the beginning of the Sudan crisis, 25,428 people have arrived in CAR from Sudan, including 20,727 Sudanese refugees and 4,701 Central African returnees, with the majority being women and children.
- As of 20 November, 10,381 refugees have been biometrically registered by UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR).
- To date, a total of 2,286 individuals have relocated to Korsi where they can access protection support and services. 1,026 ration cards have been distributed, including 44 last week.
- NOURRIR, World Health Organization (WHO), OHG-DS, International Medical Corps (IMC) and Biaro Health District jointly carried out 394 medical consultations last week.

Protection

Partner INTERSOS conducted 129 monitoring visits to refugee and host communities in nine locations in Tambaye District and Biaro Health District, helping to identify protection cases for appropriate support and follow up. Accordingly, 22 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors were identified in the past week and directed to relevant service providers, with some among them receiving dignity kits.

To enhance group therapy initiatives, 35 women in Korsi were organized into smaller groups, participating in community farming tasks including planting and selling harvested products. Following the sale of the initial harvest last week, new seeds were planted on the vacant plots. However, consistent interruptions in the water supply to the site present a significant challenge for irrigating the fields.

In Vakaga Prefecture, four awareness sessions on social cohesion and the right to education were conducted in Korsi and Yata, engaging both refugees and host community members. These activities reached a total of 306 individuals, aiming to prevent human rights violations and maintain a protective environment for the population.

The complaint management and feedback system in Korsi received 126 complaints during the reporting period, covering various areas such as protection concerns, feedback on services, and requests for information related to shelter, CORs, food security, and durable solutions. These complaints are consistently monitored, and efforts are made to address them to enhance communication and improve the quality of humanitarian services.

Health

NOURRIR, WHO, OHG-DS, IMC and the Biaro Health District jointly carried out 394 medical consultations during the week, including with 138 children under five years. Malaria, digestive bacterial infections, and acute respiratory infections remained the main pathologies recorded. A total of 25 deliveries were assisted at the health centre in Korsi while six patients were referred to the Biaro District Hospital for specialized assistance.

OHG-DS conducted sexual and reproductive health awareness sessions for 75 women and facilitated family planning sessions attended by 119 women.

Shelter, CRIs and Food Distribution

A total of 663 shelters have been built at Korsi site since the start of the response, with the doors for 349 of them fixed as of last week.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has commenced the distribution of two-month food rations, including rice, lentils, salt, and vegetable oil, to families in Korsi. Additionally, from September 9 to November 17, NOURRIR provided a total of 7,201 cooked meals to new arrivals in the site.

WASH

UNHCR and NOURRIR last week provided 40,000 litres of water daily in Korsi, equating to 17.5 liters per person per day (l/p/d). However, the country's fuel shortage severely disrupts the water-pumping generator's regular operation, resulting in inadequate and erratic water supply. Long queues and potential tensions have emerged at water collection points due to this inconsistency. Adequate resources are necessary to meet these needs and effectively tackle the associated challenges.

Last week, UNHCR received 1,250 litres of fuel in Biaro, which will allow the running of the water point in Korsi for some time.

Education

A total of 863 Sudanese refugees, including 405 girls, have been enrolled in two primary schools in Biaro village. To address declining attendance, awareness sessions were conducted for both refugees and the host community, reaching 140 individuals. Additionally, 28 teachers, including 10 women, were trained in French as a Foreign Language (FLE) pedagogy and functional literacy to support Sudanese refugees in adapting to the French-language education system.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- As of 20 November, a total of 39,313 refugees and asylum-seekers along with 3,204 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have fled violence in Sudan and arrived in Ethiopia.
- The security situation in the Amhara region continues to be tense and fragile where refugees are sometimes attacked and robbed of their phones, cash and personal belongings. UNHCR continues to advocate with the authorities to improve the security situation.
- In preparation for the Level 3 (L3) biometric registration in Kumer site, tokens have been distributed to over 6,000 people.
- Over 1,700 patients received medical consultations at Kurmuk in the Benishangul Gumuz region (BGR), and Metema and Kumer in the Amhara region.
- With the Ethiopia chapter of the Regional Refugee Response Plan funded only at 16 per cent of the 91.2 million requirements, there are significant gaps in the response including limited availability of essential medicines and supplementary feeding, posing critical challenges for the well-being of refugees.

Population Movements

As of 20 November, 39,313 refugees and asylum-seekers (18,402 families), as well as 3,204 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia. Of these, 19,321 crossed through the Metema entry point in Amhara, 17,118 through the Kurmuk entry point (BGR) and 700 individuals through different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey). Most of the new arrivals are Sudanese (66.2 per cent), followed by Eritreans (21.2 per cent), Ethiopian returnees (8.1 per cent) and South Sudanese (4.2 per cent).

Following its peak in July when 13,788 new arrivals were registered, the trend in arrivals has gradually slowed down, with only 1,189 recorded in October. However, there appears to be a slight resurgence, as 1,302 people were registered as of 20 November.

Protection

Increasing levels of insecurity at Kumer settlement, in the Amhara region, have prompted heightened safety concerns within the refugee community. UNHCR is working with the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) in jointly advocating for the reinforcement of security arrangements in/around the sites and the possible engagement of local (kebele) security guards.

Several protection-focused training sessions were conducted during the week, both at the Kumer site and Metema border. These included a session on socio-emotional learning attended by five individuals working at the Child-Friendly Space, and another session involving eight community volunteers to educate them on the fundamental principles of Child Protection (CP) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Additionally, a third training session aimed at equipping 10 health workers with skills for identifying and managing cases of acute malnutrition among children, was facilitated.

Awareness-raising sessions on GBV and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) continued at the Kurmuk transit centre, engaging 205 individuals last week. Among them, 105 individuals received education during home visits about the dangers associated with early marriage, while another 100 were sensitized on methods to prevent both personal and collective instances of sexual exploitation and abuse while waiting to receive aid. Additionally, 81 women were engaged in similar discussions while having coffee and doing handcrafts at the Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS)

One GBV case was identified at the Kurmuk transit centre by UNHCR's partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) and provided immediate response, including psychosocial support.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) facilitated an average of 20 to 25 international calls per day?, during the reporting period to try to trace and reunify children who had been separated from their families during the flight or who had arrived alone.

Registration

In preparation for the Level 3 (L3) biometric registration in Kumer,, the process of token distribution has been finalized, reaching 6,090 individuals from 3,178 households.

Relocation

UNHCR, along with RRS and other partners relocated 106 new arrivals from Sudan, who had been at the Abrahamo reception centre for an extended period, to the reception centre at Sherkole refugee camp (BGR).

Health and nutrition

In Kurmuk, RRS had medical consultations with 453 patients last week, about a quarter of them being children under five years. 91 per cent of the patients were treated for malaria as the most common health concern in the region. Awareness raising sessions on mental health were also conducted with the aim to address some misconceptions about mental health issues and ways to seek support.

As part of the effort to protect refugees from infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS and to promote family planning, 1,728 male condoms were distributed and contraceptive injections administered for eight women, together with awareness sessions, including demonstration on condom usage.

Additionally, 47 children under five years were screened for malnutrition of whom 22 were referred for treatment for acute and moderate malnutrition. However, due to funding shortfall, disruptions in the supply of Plumpy'Nut are hampering the treatment of malnutrition at the reception centre and in the camps.

At Kumer settlement and the transit center at Metema, a total of 1,323 patients, including 119 individuals from the surrounding host communities received medical consultations during the past week. Furthermore, 336 people were screened for mental health issues of whom 19 cases were identified and referred for appropriate services.

Out of 224 children under five and 36 pregnant and breastfeeding women who were screened for malnutrition at Kumer, 12 were identified as moderately malnourished and subsequently referred for treatment.

Challenges at Kumer and other health posts in the Amhara region persist due to limited availability of essential medications and medical supplies, shortage of supplementary feeding, along with inadequate diagnostic capacities and the absence of electric power.

WASH

Refugees and asylum-seekers at the Metema transit center had access to a daily water allowance of just 14.4 liters per person (l/p/d) while those at the Kumer site received approximately 10 l/p/d. The rapid filling of latrines and the slow pace of replacements remain a significant challenge, potentially posing health risks.

Site development, Shelter, CRIs

The ongoing delay in identifying and developing a new settlement site in BGR is increasingly concerning and places the existing water supply at the Kurmuk transit center in a precarious situation. Should asylum seekers remain at Kurmuk transit center beyond December, there is a growing risk of depleting the existing pond water source to the extent that it may become non-recoverable.

EGYPT

Highlights

- Egypt hosted the Sudan Humanitarian Crisis Conference 2023 from 18-20 November, aimed to foster collaboration among local, national, and international organizations in the humanitarian response.
- Since mid-April, based on government figures, 338,374 people have entered Egypt fleeing the war in Sudan, including 330,000 Sudanese and 8,374 individuals of other nationalities.
- UNHCR has so far registered some 102,000 new arrivals from Sudan, 89 per cent of them Sudanese.

- UNHCR assisted a record number of mostly Sudanese GBV survivors in October, reaching 403 cases.

Registration and Protection

Registration: As of 17 November, 146,249 new arrivals from Sudan have been given appointments for registration, of which 101,572 (69 per cent) have been registered. Most of the registered population are Sudanese nationals (89%), while the other main nationalities registered are South Sudanese (5%), and Eritrean (4%). The vast majority (88 per cent) of those registered came from Khartoum, with 22 per cent having specific needs.

Community-based Protection: on November 14, UNHCR conducted an awareness session on registration and related services for 46 Sudanese women at the Hassaya safe space in Aswan. This session directly addressed the Sudanese community's expressed need for information about UNHCR services, identified through a recent needs assessment. The event also involved the participation of UNFPA and Caritas.

Infoline: 14,964 inquiries were handled by UNHCR's Infoline last week and registration appointments given to 6,408 individuals. This brings the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the system to 70, 202. Following the merging of the Cairo and Alexandria lines and the hiring of additional agents, the average number of calls per day has tripled compared to pre-crisis levels.

Cash Assistance

Over the past few weeks, UNHCR provided emergency cash assistance to 720 new arrivals, totaling 42,479 recipients out of approximately 46,000 eligible for this support. Additionally, among the 69,030 individuals that have been identified to receive bimonthly multipurpose cash assistance in November, 16,198 were new arrivals from Sudan.

Shelter and Core Relief Items

Since the onset of the Sudan refugee crisis, UNHCR provided 900,500 bottles of water, 160,000 hygiene kits and 80,000 sanitary items to new arrivals from Sudan.

As part of its continued efforts to support the border authorities, UNHCR sent office equipment to the Argeen border crossing point last week, including printers, fans, and chairs. The support is intended to help meet the access and documentation needs of the refugees who arrive from Sudan every day.

Since the start of the conflict in Sudan, UNHCR has installed three Rubb halls at the border crossings, and a fourth in the reception centre in Cairo. The Rubb halls have facilitated the scale-up of the response and provided shaded rest areas for asylum-seekers. In addition, UNHCR delivered 1,000 blankets, 50 mattresses, 1,000 floor mats, nine commercial fridges, 15 family tents, 10 tablets, four freezers, four logistic trolleys, 10 laptops, 20 smartphones, 30 fire extinguishers, 250 waiting benches, one multi-function printer, one office fridge, 40 fans, 50 office chairs, and 20 tables to UNHCR's partner, the Egyptian Red Crescent, both to strengthen its own capacity and for distribution to new arrivals.

SOUTH SUDAN

An update will be shared as soon as it is available.

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 1,004,761,770** 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 20 November, total funding of USD 395.2 million has been recorded or **39%** 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 2.57 billion** to help 18 million people. As of 20 November, the total funding for the HRP reached some USD 891.6 million or **34.8%** 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 20 November, the total available funding for the appeal was USD 166.3 million or **33%** 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](#)
- [Sudan RRP 2023-September Progress Report](#)
- UNHCR's HELP site for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Sudan provides information to individuals seeking information and support inside Sudan (in [English](#) and [Arabic](#)).

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