

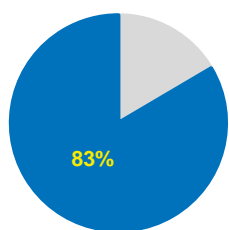
## Sudan: Emergency Response to Internal Displacement

**Sudan is home to the largest number of internally displaced people in the world.** More than 7 million people live uprooted from their homes in insecure make-shift shelters, overcrowded homes or buildings. They are often separated from family members, unprotected from conflict and weather, and without access to basic amenities for a dignified life. Of those, nearly 5 million people have been internally displaced since the outbreak of armed conflict in the country in April 2023 – an average of 24,000 people every day. Some of them have been displaced multiple times, others are trapped, unable to flee and seek safety. Needs are dramatic in scale and by far outweigh the humanitarian response capacity.

### 2023 Emergency Response Overview

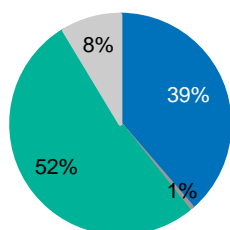
**From January to October 2023, UNHCR and its partners reached nearly 550,000 internally displaced people** in a very challenging and complex operational environment. Of those, 83 per cent or over 455,000 people were supported since the onset of the armed conflict. With variations in scope, UNHCR currently responds in 15 states, including in the Darfur region, South and West Kordofan, Kassala, Gedaref, Al Jazeera, Sennar, Blue and White Nile as well as Red Sea and Northern states. Notwithstanding the significant conflict in the Darfur region, UNHCR has retained a sizeable response in hard-to-reach areas, including through the cross-border response from Chad, where humanitarian access permitted to do so. The most notable expansion of UNHCR's response took place across all the Eastern states and in the North, where UNHCR's IDP response is largely new.

IDPs supported in 2023  
Before and after 15 April 2023



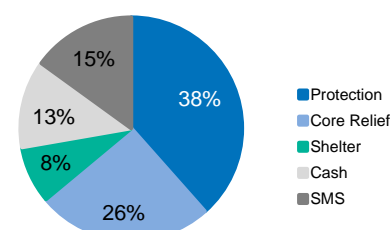
■ IDPs supported before April 15  
■ IDPs supported after April 15

IDPs reached by region  
15 April to 31 October 2023



■ Darfur ■ Kordofan ■ East ■ North

IDPs supported by sector  
1 January to 31 October 2023



■ Protection  
■ Core Relief  
■ Shelter  
■ Cash  
■ SMS

- UNHCR implements a life-saving multi-sectoral emergency response. It comprises critical protection assistance, services and referrals, cash for protection and basic needs, core relief and emergency shelter support, alongside site management services.
- UNHCR's response is based on protection monitoring and identification of people at risk or with specific needs so that support reaches those most in need.
- Our operations are complemented by protection advocacy and capacity building of staff, partners, local authorities, and communities themselves, as well as coordination of the protection, shelter/NFI and site management sectors.



UNHCR providing core relief items to newly displaced people in North Darfur, November 2023. © UNHCR Sudan

## 2023 Emergency Response Highlights

**UNHCR's community-based response is tailored to the new displacement realities in Sudan** where the majority of IDPs stay in host community settings. It enables more equal access to available services and strengthens social cohesion between communities in areas of displacement. UNHCR's response places the role of communities as first-line responders at its centre and strengthens communities' resilience and capacity. In 2023, UNHCR jointly with communities and partners made considerable progress in rolling out the community-based response:

- **12 multi-purpose community centres** are under establishment in six states - White Nile, Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, and Northern states, with one pilot envisaged for Darfur. UNHCR's multi-purpose community centres serve as a common service hub in a neighbourhood and as a social platform bringing communities together. More such centres are planned in 2024.
- **Over 50 community-based protection networks (CBPNs)** have been newly established and trained for mobile response and community outreach. They are involved in protection monitoring, awareness-raising, early warning, identification of persons with specific needs, referrals, social cohesion activities, and dispute resolution. Some of them are specialized, such as the paralegal network which provides legal awareness on civil documentation. In addition, in Darfur, despite disruptions to the networks caused by conflict and displacement, UNHCR maintains contact with 52 CBPNs covering all main hotspot areas for protection monitoring and early warning.
- **Community initiatives** have started and are supported in various centres, starting from recreational activities and clean-up campaigns to community-to-community skills exchange. In Kassala for instance, youth representatives from IDP and host communities are contributing to the centres with their skills and experience, ranging from martial arts to vocational skills training, for example in human resource management.
- **Investments in communities as first-line responders** is centered on community capacity building, including community volunteers of 'emergency rooms', which are community initiatives to support those affected by this crisis. Trainings range from community-based protection to medical and psychological first aid. In addition, UNHCR supports community structures to organize themselves and with material support. In White Nile state, UNHCR is partnering with the first IDP-led organization for a project on economic empowerment and social cohesion.
- **A service package** for the centres has been designed. It consists of information provision, identification of persons with specific needs, counselling, referrals and case management, individual protection assistance, legal aid, mental health and psycho-social support, and prevention of gender-based violence. In addition, vocational skills training and economic empowerment will be pursued. Where suitable, the community centres are used as distribution points for other assistance, such as cash or core relief items. Designed as multi-partner service hubs, UNHCR is gradually rolling this service package out at the centres and is engaging other humanitarian partners to join in with complementary support.

Communities have been involved in the design and the roll-out of UNHCR's community-based response in Sudan and are active contributors to it.



UNHCR staff in White Nile state consulting a community health volunteer on the needs for the community centre in Rabak, November 2023. © UNHCR Sudan

"Before this centre was established, I only knew the name of UNHCR. Now I know what UNHCR is doing for the community."

*Community representative and CBPN member from the host community, Kosti Centre, White Nile state*

"We lost everything when we fled Khartoum and we did not know people here. Now we have a place to meet each other and organize ourselves so we can better resolve our problems."

*Community representative from the IDP community, Kassala Centre, Kassala state*

Cash-based assistance is an important component of UNHCR's community-based response. In 2023, UNHCR resumed its cash-based programming in large parts of the country. Cash is a fast and effective way to address and mitigate protection risks, to respond to the diverse needs of communities, and catalyse the resumption of income generation. **In 2023, UNHCR supported nearly 85,000 of the most vulnerable IDPs and members of the host community with cash support to the value of some USD 3.2 million.** UNHCR implements multi-purpose cash assistance for protection and basic needs along with cash for shelter programmes benefitting IDPs and host communities living together. In addition, UNHCR, together with its partners, is piloting cash for economic empowerment initiatives. Collectively, this three-tiered cash approach aims to improve social protection and to catalyse community-driven economic recovery. Prior to the conflict, UNHCR's cash interventions were centred on Darfur, while after its start, UNHCR's cash interventions also reached people in the East and the North of the country.



UNHCR and partners implementing a first cash distribution in Dongola, Northern state. © UNHCR Sudan, 2023.

As the war is engulfing the country, causing mass displacement, severe risks to the protection of civilians, and dramatic humanitarian needs, UNHCR urges the international community to focus attention on the Sudan situation and provide support to stem this humanitarian crisis.

UNHCR responds to this emergency in partnership with others and contributes to the system-wide scale-up of the humanitarian response. UNHCR is grateful for the collaboration with its partners in responding to the new displacement realities in Sudan.

**Special thanks to our donors for UNHCR's programme in 2023:** Australia | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Poland | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | USA | UNICEF | CERF | IGAD | SHF | PFB | World Diabetes Foundation | Private Donors

- View UNHCR Sudan's IDP Emergency Response Factsheet, September 2023:  
<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/103681>
- View UNHCR Sudan's IDP Response Factsheet for 2022:  
<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/99300>
- For further information on UNHCR's engagement on internal displacement globally, visit:  
<https://www.unhcr.org/internally-displaced-people.html>