

SUDAN SITUATION

21-27 March 2024



A newlywed Sudanese refugee couple sit in their shelter in Sherhole refugee camp, northwestern Ethiopia. © UNHCR/Tiksa Negeri.

Highlights

- Ongoing clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have continued since the outbreak of conflict in April 2023.
- Independent UN human rights experts on 22 March [expressed alarm](#) over increased reports of sexual slavery and trafficking in Sudan, especially of women and girls. This is being compounded by an increase in child and forced marriage, and the recruitment of boys by combatants in the continuing war that erupted nearly a year ago. Access to support for victims and survivors has reportedly deteriorated since December, the Human Rights Council-appointed experts said. Young women and girls, including internally displaced persons, are reportedly being trafficked, they said. Some of the cases of child and forced marriage are occurring due to family separation and gender-based violence, including rape and unwanted pregnancies.
- On the occasion of the UN Secretary-General's visit to Egypt on 23 and 24 March, UNHCR [organized](#) an Iftar on 23 March for 15 Sudanese refugees to allow them to share their challenges and hopes. The UN Secretary-General heard first-hand from refugees of the long waits to register with UNHCR, given the lack of capacity, and the resulting legal precarity from not being able to register for a residency permit, thereby regularizing stay in Egypt; the impact of the current economic crisis on their ability to sustain themselves and meet their basic needs; the despair over the poor prospect for durable solutions, including through resettlement, and the lack of hope in the conflict in Sudan resolving itself soon. The refugees expressed gratitude to Egypt for providing a haven from the violence and for welcoming them to the country.

- On 26 March, the regional bloc Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) [named](#) South Sudanese lawyer Lawrence Korbandy as Special Envoy for Sudan. IGAD said Korbandy will provide “pivotal good offices” to engage with stakeholders and help seek common ground for warring factions in Khartoum, including guiding the bloc on the “way forward.”
- The United States [announced](#) that it is looking at 18 April for the potential resumption of Sudan peace talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as part of its efforts to mitigate a dire humanitarian disaster and prevent the conflict from escalating into a regional war. Nearly a year into Sudan’s civil war, the country is grappling with one of the world’s largest internal displacement crisis. The U.S. special envoy for Sudan, Tom Perriello, said that these talks would also involve the African Union, IGAD, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

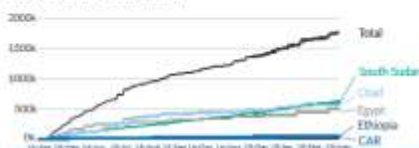
OVERVIEW: There are now 8.5 million forcibly displaced due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan since April 2023, including 6.5 million internally and 1.8 million in neighbouring countries. Sudan and neighbouring countries were already hosting large refugee populations before this new emergency and require additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance, including for those who have been secondarily displaced within Sudan. 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.

8,492,140 Forcibly Displaced
6,505,486 New IDPs in Sudan
1,768,883 Newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers and returnees
217,771 Self-relocated Refugees in Sudan

Arrivals by population and estimated gender type



New arrivals from Sudan



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- Conflict between Sudan Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces continues in Khartoum, Kordofan and Darfur States where gathering sites are becoming overcrowded, humanitarian needs increasing and limited coverage of life-saving assistance by partners.
- Missions to Tunaydbah refugee camp in Gedaref State resumed on 25 March following the improvement of the security situation around Al Fao locality. UNHCR is regularly reviewing its security processes in line with UN common policy to allow for swift action should there be changes in the situation in any given location.

Population movements and Registration

During the reporting period, 112 refugees and asylum-seekers from Eritrea (102 individuals) and Ethiopia arrived in eastern Sudan through the Gulsa point and the Gallabat border crossing points in Kassala and Gedaref states respectively. Close to 200 refugees and asylum-seekers from Ethiopia and Eritrea, some of whom have been secondarily displaced from Khartoum, were registered by UNHCR/COR registration team at the Shagarab reception centre in Kassala State and in Gedaref refugee camps.

Community-Based Protection Network (CBPNs) in Al Lait settlements, North Darfur State, reported the arrival of 84 refugee households from West Kordofan State. These refugees are currently sheltered at the Abujarra settlement in Al Lait. The Commission for Refugees (COR) in Al Lait conducted Level 1 (household level) registration of the new arrivals.

Protection

In North Darfur State, UNHCR's partner HOPE held a focus group discussion with women at an IDP gathering site at Alshargiya school hosting some 300 households from El Fasher. Participants highlighted safety and security as major concerns due to ongoing armed conflict and aerial bombardment, forcing more civilians to flee to gathering sites. Access to food was reported to be very poor, with no food assistance distributed in the previous two months, which has led to malnutrition among children and economic hardship for households. The lack of water and sanitation facilities is also of concern and shelter conditions were described as very poor, with overcrowded classrooms lacking privacy and adequate living space. Child protection services were reported to be lacking, with children in need of psychosocial support activities. UNHCR is coordinating with partners and authorities for needful assistance to the IDPs.

Child Protection

In Kassala State, UNHCR conducted monitoring visits to alternative caregivers to unaccompanied children in the refugee camps. Eight unaccompanied refugee boys who were moved out of the unaccompanied children (UAC) In January 2024, 23 unaccompanied children were moved out of the UAC centre to alternative living arrangements in Shagarab 2 refugee camp. centre were reported to have spontaneously left their shelters. The matter has been reported to local authorities in the camp. UNHCR organized a group session with the remaining unaccompanied children on general protection issues as well as on rules, respect and teamwork between the fellow residents.

Prevention and Response against gender-based violence (GBV)

In Gedaref State, three incidents of gender-based violence were reported in Tunaydbah (2) and Babikri (1) refugee camps involving sexual violence (1), physical assault (1) and emotional abuse (1). All survivors received psychosocial support and were referred for health and shelter assistance by UNHCR protection partner.

Health and Nutrition

In East Darfur State, 323 refugee children were screened for nutrition in the refugee camps. One child was found with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and 150 children were diagnosed with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). In South Kordofan State, 26 children under five years were screened at the Darbatti health facility of whom 21 children were found with SAM and admitted to the outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) centre.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

In Gedaref State, UNHCR's partner Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery (SORR) distributed an in-kind contribution of clothes to 1,238 households (6,939 individuals) living in five gathering sites in Al Mafaza locality. The recipients were largely IDPs displaced from Khartoum, Al Jazirah and Sennar states since May 2023.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Gedaref State, UNHCR's partner CARE International commenced the desludging of latrines in Um Rakuba refugee camp. Desludging of latrines is an urgent need to ensure the ratio of communal latrines

per to person is at minimum standards of 1:20 in camps. Operational partners in the refugee response like COOPI and International Rescue Committee (IRC) have committed to support UNHCR and CARE in the desludging activities.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Highlights

- As of 25 March, the population in Korsi has reached 10,668 refugees (4,657 households). The average number of arrivals in March is 565 people per week. Since January, 7,397 Sudanese (3,295 families) have arrived in Korsi. Should the current trend continue, Korsi could reach a population of up to 15,000 by the end of May. As a result, additional funds to increase the already overstretched capacity of Korsi will be vital.

Population Movements and Registration

100% of Korsi's population has been biometrically registered with 2,469 persons with specific needs documented. As of 25 March, 29,444 forced displaced people had arrived in CAR since April 2023, including 23,286 Sudanese refugees and 6,158 Central African returnees. 14,858 (5,181 households) are biometrically registered and live in 13 localities, including Korsi.

Protection

Protection monitoring

UNHCR's partner INTERSOS carried out 60 monitoring visits, including 39 in the host community in Birao and 21 in Korsi. As a result of the monitoring visits, 53 protection incidents were identified and documented. Three main types of violations included violation of rights to property, violation of the right to physical integrity, and GBV. These protection incidents mainly affected host community members (83%). For the cases impacting refugees in Birao, victims of physical assault were referred to the health centre for treatment and offered psychosocial support and cases of GBV were referred to trained GBV caseworkers who accompanied the survivors to receive health support and participate in individual or group counselling.

Prevention and Response against gender-based violence (GBV)

UNHCR co-facilitated the training of 22 INTERSOS community volunteers on various human rights themes, with a particular focus on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

UNHCR has finalized the distribution of hygiene kits to 1,683 refugee women and girls in Korsi. However, there is still a gap of over 1,000 due to the increasing refugee population in Korsi, which means there are not enough kits to be distributed.

During the week, 12 GBV cases were documented in Birao, including two cases of rape, two cases of forced marriage, three cases of denial of resources and opportunity, four cases of physical violence, and lastly, one case of psychological violence. As a response, all survivors benefited from psychosocial support. In addition, 11 out of 12 survivors benefitted from Cash for protection. Three GBV survivors and four people with specific needs received dignity kits. Lastly, two survivors of rape and two of physical assault were referred to International Medical Corps (IMC) and the Birao Hospital for medical assistance.

Education

During the week, the school-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Networks were relaunched with the training of 48 focal points from the refugee and host communities. These volunteers were trained on child protection, mental health and psychosocial support, GBV prevention, and the referral pathway that connects the school-based and community-based networks and services. Additionally, 33 Parents' Association members were trained on the roles and responsibilities of parents and the promotion of equitable access to education for all children from all communities, without discrimination linked to status, gender, religion, language, age, (dis)ability, etc.

Furthermore, ten community relays, including six women, were trained on child protection in schools and community awareness-raising techniques around education. After the training, the community relays and Parents' Associations launched an awareness campaign to promote and respect children's rights. All activities are supported by Education Cannot Wait's First Emergency Response grant for Sudanese refugees in the Central African Republic.

Health and Nutrition

NOURRIR and International Medical Corps (IMC) completed 771 medical consultations, benefiting 23 host community members and 748 refugees, including 200 new arrivals to Korsi. Since the beginning of the year, 8,929 curative consultations have been carried out in Korsi.

During the week, 13 patients were referred from the Korsi neighbourhood hosting area to Birao District Hospital. Since the beginning of the year, 145 patients have been referred to the Birao District Hospital, 8 are still hospitalized.

The obstetrics and gynecology team received 23 prenatal and 16 gynecological consultations and performed three deliveries. Lastly, 14 children received multi-antigen vaccines this week, and four pregnant women received tetanus vaccines.

Six moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) cases were documented and enrolled at the nutritional management centre. Since the beginning of the year, the nutritional management program has treated 366 children for MAM and 29 for severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

4 Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and three Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases were documented and enrolled at the nutritional management center during the week. Since January, the nutritional management program has treated 315 children for MAM and 37 for SAM. Identification for the prevention of malnutrition continues in Korsi after the mass nutritional screening, which has already identified 360 children aged 06 to 23 months targeted to benefit from dietary supplements.

NOURRIR distributed 8,546 hot meals with food donated by the World Food Programme (WFP) and prepared and served 7,613 breakfasts supported by UNHCR.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Twenty-nine restrooms and 29 showers were rehabilitated this week in Korsi, bringing the total number of functional restrooms and showers to 74. In addition, a six-tap ramp has been installed at Korsi to increase the number of water tapping points and reduce waiting times in line. The platform's structure, which supports the 7m³ water bladder installed at the second water point and is equipped with a solar pump in Korsi, was also reinforced during the week. However, despite the efforts made by UNHCR with its partner NOURRIR and UNICEF with its partner TGH to increase the daily water pumping capacity from 80 m³ to 130 m³, the average ratio is 13 litres of water per person per day, still below sphere standards.

Hygiene promotion activities continue in Korsi to ensure that refugees live in a healthy environment. This is done by promoting the cleaning of community spaces (restrooms and showers, health centres and water distribution points).

CHAD

Highlights

- UNHCR and partners in Chad welcomed the United States Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), Ambassador Juliet V. Noyes, from 20-23 March. After meeting with government officials in Ndjamena, the Assistant Secretary and her team visited the Adré, Gaga and Farchana refugee sites, where she held discussions with Sudanese refugees who fled the armed conflict. She also met with various partners in Abeche in Eastern Chad, who shared with the delegation their achievements, needs and the huge gaps that urgently require additional funding. At the end of her visit, she announced additional funds to support the [Sudan situation](#) in the region.

Population movements and Registration

During the week under review, 3,289 individuals (810 households) compared to 2,335 individuals (673 households) crossed into Chad mainly through the Adré border crossing point. Most of them are women and children from the Sudanese localities of Nyala, Habila, and El-Fasher. They are reported to have fled due to insecurity and human rights abuses in Sudan. The Government of Chad has counted a total of 564,686 individuals to have crossed into Chad since the start of the emergency of which 78,289 have crossed into Chad since the beginning of the year.

Biometric registration of Sudanese refugees continues at the Metché refugee site. During the reporting week, 3,003 individuals (720 households) were registered. To date, 37,200 individuals (9,629 households) have been registered, representing 89% of the target for the refugee site. As of 16 March, 454,163 individuals (123,058 households) have been registered since the start of the emergency.

Biometric registration in Zabout, which was halted due to violent disturbances, will resume soon after meetings with the local authorities to resolve the situation and mass sensitizations on registration procedures. Humanitarian activities remained suspended at the Ouré Cassoni refugee site in Amdjarass in the Province of Enndi East for the same reasons. Though the local authorities have been informed of the violent threats, their decision is still awaited to help resolve the situation.

Relocation

5,960 individuals (1,499 households) were relocated from Adré (Ouadaï Province), Sinette and Grena (Wadi-Fira Province) border areas to Farchana Extension and Milé refugee sites in the Ouadaï and Wadi-Fira provinces respectively. Relocations from the border entry points of the Koulbus axis have been concluded, totaling 9,166 individuals (2 197 households) relocated since the start of the process.

Protection

UNHCR organized a training session on the UNHCR Code of Conduct for partner staff in Iriba (Wadi-Fira Province) on 19 March 2024 for 26 partner staff. The training was to equip new partner staff to adhere to the code of conduct.

Prevention and Response against gender-based violence (GBV)

55 new gender based (GBV) incidents were reported in the different sites. The trend emerging from the analysis shows many cases are linked to the denial of resources as humanitarian assistance has been reduced due to funding shortfalls. All survivors benefited from psychosocial support, and some benefited from medical and legal services. To date, 902 GBV incidents have been recorded among the new Sudanese caseloads.

UNHCR organized a validation workshop of standard operating procedures (SOPs) on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in Abéché (Ouadaï Province) on 19 and 20 March. UN partners, agencies, and heads of decentralized state services in the province were in attendance. This workshop was an opportunity to revitalize the PSEA protection working group in Eastern Chad and to help avoid incidences of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Health and Nutrition

425,129 medical consultations have been carried out since the start of the emergency, including 14,032 over the past week. Malaria, acute respiratory infections (ARI), watery diarrhea and malnutrition remain the main pathologies.

Since the start of the crisis, 374,038 children have been screened for malnutrition; 34,628 cases of MAM and 16,624 cases of SAM were treated for children aged 6 to 59 months. Over the past week, 15,980 children were screened, including 752 MAM and 314 SAM.

32,619 pregnant and breastfeeding women were screened, and 4,045 cases of MAM were treated. In the past week, 3,114 pregnant women were screened, including 296 cases of MAM.

14,486 mental health cases were received for consultation and treatment, including 149 new cases last week.

5,742 deliveries attended by qualified health personnel have been recorded since the start of the emergency, including 207 deliveries last week.

Although Chadian authorities have not officially declared an epidemic, the number of hepatitis E cases is increasing. To date, 1,222 cases have been recorded in the four refugee sites (Adré, Aboutengué, Metché, and Alacha) in the Wadi-Fira and Ouadaï provinces. Strengthening hygiene measures and raising awareness among the population continues.

13,045 beneficiaries (3,686 households) in Alacha and Milé (Wadi-Fira Province) received WFP food rations. The distribution was coupled with blanket supplementary feeding, of which 493 children aged 6 to 23 months were served; 216 pregnant and lactating women and 199 persons with specific needs (elderly persons, persons with chronic diseases etc.) screened received food to prevent malnutrition.

WFP has provided food for 666,618 individuals (refugees: 519,197; returnees: 94,484; host population: 51,937) since the start of the crisis in April 2023.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

346 out of 1,000 additional shelters were finalized in Alacha.

Construction of 400 shelters on the Kerfi site in progress by the partner INTERSOS.

59,811 shelters have been built since the start of the emergency.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

With the excessive heat, the quantity of water per person per day has reduced in the various refugee sites ranging from 4.2 to around 10 liters per person per day, well below the emergency standard of 15 liters per person per day.

11,688 latrines have been built since 15 April.

EGYPT

Highlights

- 508,827 people, including 500,000 Sudanese and 8,827 individuals of other nationalities, crossed into Egypt between April 2023 and March 2024, according to latest figures received by UNHCR from the Government of Egypt.
- On 19 March, Egypt extended the grace period for 'unlawful foreign residents' to legitimize their residency by six months. The extension of the deadline, originally set to expire on 15 March, has been extended to 15 September to ease the pressures on asylum seekers and refugees in particular who are unable to regularize their stay without UNHCR registration. In August last year, Egypt had issued a decree requiring 'foreigners' to legitimize their residency, either for tourism or other purposes, with fee payment in hard currency. UNHCR has long advocated for leniency to allow asylum seekers and refugees time to register with UNHCR, considering the significant registration backlogs resulting from increased pressures from rising numbers of arrivals from Sudan.

Population Movements and Registration

Egypt - 287,607 individuals, or 51% of the total number of 561,940 - accounting for half of the asylum seekers and refugees registered in Egypt. According to the government, 5 million other Sudanese live in Egypt, large numbers of whom are now turning to UNHCR for assistance and protection as the likelihood of return diminishes further with the increasingly protracted nature of the conflict.

Most new arrivals are women (53%), children, and the elderly older persons manifesting conflict trauma, included families separated by displacement and high numbers of unaccompanied and separated children. The highest reported needs on arrival relate to housing, education, and cash.

UNHCR is piloting a proactive registration appointment exercise for document renewals and has scheduled 9,000 appointments for approximately 30,000 individuals over the next few months. The

exercise aims to ensure that registered refugees and asylum seekers can access UNHCR and maintain valid documentation to mitigate the risks of arrest, detention, and deportation. News of the initiative has been welcomed by refugees who are keen to renew their UNHCR documentation without the need to undergo appointment booking procedures, thus minimizing waiting periods. It will reduce infrastructure and crowd pressure and will improve the safety of refugees and UNHCR staff alike. UNHCR Egypt continues to ensure that registration appointment slots are also set aside for emergency and urgent refugees who approach so they can receive prioritized registration services based on specific needs and vulnerabilities.

Protection

Community-based protection

Over the last week, refugee outreach workers provided information to some 3,432 refugees and asylum-seekers at UNHCR's Reception Centre in Greater Cairo on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. 1,460 individuals were also provided with basic psychosocial support. A total of 6 case referrals were made for in-depth MHPSS assessment and 45 cases were also referred for fast-track registration.

Infoline

Last week, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline handled 7,855 calls and provided new registration appointments to 3,992 people who have fled Sudan. This brought the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the Infoline system to 301,103.

98% of registration appointments for new arrivals from Sudan were allocated to Sudanese individuals, while 2% were designated for Third Country Nationals (TCNs). Among those seeking registration appointments from the new arrivals in Sudan, females represented 59% and males 41%.

84.51% of the total inquiries were related to registration, followed by 5.83% for assistance, 3.55% for phone verification, 2.7% for protection, 1.04% for durable solutions, 0.9% for RSD, and 0.71% for legal protection. Additionally, Infoline booked an average of 798 appointments per day for an average of 2,104 individuals.

Prevention of and Response to gender-based violence (GBV)

Over the past week, UNHCR counselled 46 survivors of GBV at its reception centre in Greater Cairo. Since the start of the crisis, UNHCR Egypt has counselled more than 300 GBV survivors from Sudan.

Legal and physical protection

During the reporting week, 82 cases were referred to legal partners for legal assistance. In addition, 244 cases received legal counselling through UNHCR and legal partners.

Cash Assistance and Livelihoods

During the reporting period, UNHCR's partners conducted vulnerability assessments for 79 newly arrived Sudanese households in Cairo, bringing the total to 27,157 households assessed since the start of the crisis.

To date, some 20,649 registered and unregistered new arrival households (56,202 individuals) have been identified as eligible for the one-off emergency cash assistance, out of whom 16,445 households (47,359 individuals) have successfully been assisted.

Currently there are 20,244 newly arrived families, comprised of 56,371 individuals, on the waiting list for cash assistance who are categorized as poor or extremely poor.

On 21 March, the Egypt operation published its "Post-Distribution Monitoring Report of UNHCR's Emergency Cash Assistance (ECA) to Sudanese New Arrivals in Egypt in 2023" report. The main findings were: 1) over a third of the respondents (37%) reported that ECA enabled them to cover all or most of their priority needs, while (36%) reported that it covered half of their needs; 2) most of the interviewed beneficiaries (91%) reported that the cash assistance reduced the financial burden on their households, reduced their feelings of stress and improved their living conditions (91%); 3) the five most cited spending categories were food (cited by 82% of respondents), rent (52%), utilities and bills (20%), health-related items/ services (19%) and transportation (10%).

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, a total of 51,134 individuals (22,777 households) in need of international protection crossed the border from Sudan to Ethiopia. 21,342 individuals crossed through the Metema entry point in Amhara, 21,892 individuals through the Kurmuk entry point in Benishangul Gumuz, and 700 individuals at different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey). Some 7,196 Ethiopian refugee returnees also arrived.

Population Movement and Registration

In Benishangul Gumuz region, L1 registration was conducted for 78 individuals (35 households) at Kurmuk Transit Centre. The total L1 registration for new arrivals in March is 510 individuals (203 households) reaching a cumulative total of 21,896 since the start of the conflict in April 2023.

In Amhara region, L1 registration was conducted at Metema entry point for a total of 52 individuals (21 households). To date, a total of 21,342 individuals have undergone L1 registration since the start of the conflict.

Relocation

Relocation of refugees from Kumer transit site to Awlala refugee site is ongoing since 16 February 2024 reaching a cumulative total of 1,777 refugees (741 households) that have been relocated. During the reporting period, 114 individuals (54 households) were relocated to Awlala site and provided shelters in close coordination with UNHCR, the governments Refugee and Returnees Service (RRS), IOM, Refugee Central Committee (RCC) and Action for the Needy (ANE).

Protection

UNHCR answered daily queries/phone calls from refugees on various concerns, such as health services and the need for more support in both Awlala and Kumer sites. The main concerns raised were security, freedom of movement and health service gaps; failure in mobilizing the Woreda Hospital ambulance because of fuel shortage in addition to the lack of a night shift for medical interventions in both Kumer and Awlala have proven to be a critical challenge for the health partners to respond to emergency health cases. UNHCR continues to be engaged with the refugee community to address their concerns with RRS and local authorities.

UNHCR and RRS conducted rapid assessment and identification of PSNs at Kurmuk Transit Centre. Protection consultations also continued at the transit centre focused on protection guidance and registration-related supports.

Pre-general food distribution meeting was conducted in all sites: Kumer and Awlala during the reporting week. One of the major issues raised by the RCC was consideration of additional food items for fasting such as sugar and dates. It was also highlighted that in all distribution's, the food basket by WFP through ANE need to increase the quantity as the current quantity cannot secure the household monthly needs. The refugee leaders asked UNHCR and RRS to finalize the L3 registration for those individuals with the token to ease the distribution process.

Child Protection

Five separated children (2 girls and 3 boys) were identified and registered at Kurmuk. The cumulative figure of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other vulnerable children since the beginning of the influx totals 1,223 (549 girls and 674 boys). Of these, 1,073 (486 girls, 587 boys) are separated children, while 37 (9 girls, 28 boys) are unaccompanied children and 113 (54 girls, 59 boys) are other vulnerable children.

Child friendly spaces continued to provide basic literacy and numeracy activities in Kumer and Awlala (an average of 106 children) and Kurmuk transit sites (an average of 205 children).

Rapid Best Interests Assessments (BIAs) have been initiated for a total of 5 separated children (02 girls, 03 boys). Cumulatively, a total of 978 (397 girls, 581 boys) cases of UASC and OVC have been addressed through rapid BIAs.

The Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (HIS) protection help desk received a total of 31 cases. The main issues raised by children and their care givers relate to shelter, physical abuse, health, non-food items and registration. All the cases were referred to partners for further assistance.

Gender-based Violence (GBV)

At Kurmuk transit centre, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and MTI continued to provide awareness sessions focusing on sexual and domestic violence, early marriage, and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) at the women and girls' safe spaces. A total of 191 individuals were reached. In Kumer and Awlala, DICAC, a local faith-based organization, conducted similar awareness sessions reaching over 227 individuals.

In addition, home visits were also carried out by the two partners (IRC and MTI) reaching a total of 189 individuals (84 female and 105 male) from 23 households through the dissemination of information on available services for GBV survivors and the effects of sexual, emotional, and physical violence in Kurmuk.

Awareness-raising sessions were conducted in Kumer, Awlala and Kurmuk on early marriage and its effects as well as on PSEA. Discussions focused on available services for survivors of GBV and the PSEA reporting system. Emphasis was placed on the prevention of physical violence and early marriage, underscoring the importance of reporting GBV and PSEA within 72 hours.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) were provided to GBV survivors in Kumer and Kurmuk.

Education

Handover of the two new school blocks was carried out at Kumer refugee site in the presence of RRS, UNHCR, Plan International Ethiopia (PIE), local authorities, and host community school leaders.

PIE conducted four rounds of back-to-school campaigns with the participation of RCCs, host community school leaders, and local authorities. The campaign was conducted in Tigrigna, Arabic and English languages in Kumer and Awlala.

135 Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) children and 630 primary aged children are currently enrolled in ECCE and Primary school (Grades 1-8) in Kumer host community school.

UNHCR held consultative meetings on education modality and medium of instruction with RRS, PIE, RCC, Zonal education office, Woreda education office, school community, influential local and refugee community members. Discussions are ongoing in Awlala with refugee community as schooling have not yet started at the Awlala host community school.

Health and Nutrition

MTI and World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) are supporting the provision of health services through mobile health and nutrition teams in Kumer and Awlala.

MTI and WVE provided outpatient department (OPD) consultations to 238 individuals/adults (203 refugees and 35 host community) and 76 children under the age of 5 years (58 refugees and 18 host community). The prevalent diseases in children under-five include acute upper respiratory infections (AURI), diarrhea, eye disease, and intestinal worms. Among adults, OPD cases commonly involve AURI, fungal infection, gastritis, back pain, and intestinal parasite. In addition, 27 pregnant women received antenatal care follow-up service.

MHPSS education sessions and Sexual Reproductive Health sessions were conducted in both Kumer and Kurmuk. Family planning consultations and contraceptives and male condoms were distributed.

The lack of fuel has disrupted the overall services. Laboratories were unable to function due to power outage. Shortage of programmatic medicine, issues with referrals, such as long backlog, ambulance

unavailability, interruptions of light continue to be major challenges in Kumer and Awlala.

In Kurmuk, GOAL continued screening of under-five children, and pregnant and lactating women for acute malnutrition reaching 90 children. Among them, a total of eight cases of SAM and 19 cases of MAM were identified and admitted to outpatient therapeutic and targeted supplementary feeding program respectively. In addition, two children identified with SAM and medical complications have been referred to Sherhole camp stabilization centre for better management.

In Kumer and Awlala, MTI and WVE conducted nutritional screening for 67 children under 5, with no cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

In Kurmuk, shortage of fuel is affecting health and nutrition service delivery and implementation of partners' activities in nearby kebeles where refugees reside.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- As of 18 March, the Government of South Sudan closed all schools in Juba and some parts of the country due to the heatwave expected to last for two weeks, with temperatures reaching 45 degrees Celsius.
- In Aweil, the Ministry of Health and WHO declared an outbreak of measles in all the five counties of Northern Bahr El Ghazal State, with increasing number of the reported cases.
- In Pamir (Jamjang), the response to the measles outbreak continues, with 7 new suspected cases admitted in Pamir isolation unit.

Population Movement and Registration

In Renk, a total of 8,020 individuals (2,095 households) were recorded, a 3% increase compared to the previous week. Sudanese and other nationalities account for 13%, while South Sudanese account for the remaining 87%.

In Aweil, UNHCR observed large outflows back to Sudan before the month of Ramadan, yet there was an increase in the number of new arrivals via Kiir-adem and Majok-nyinthiu border points on a daily basis. New arrivals are mostly young men, women, and children. The Alight reception desk received 227 individuals, the majority of whom are coming via Kiir-adem and Majok-nyinthiu. As of 22 March, the cumulative population of registered new arrivals was 9,322.

In Jamjang, 145 refugees (63 households) were recorded this reporting week arriving in Yida from the Nuba mountains - a 27% decrease from last week. Meanwhile, an increase in self-relocations to Jamjang camps of both new arrivals and the Yida caseload continues. Reasons include shorter waiting time for registration in the camps compared to the Yida reception centre, and access to services such as food distribution/GFD and education. Last week, 39 self-relocated individuals were recorded in Ajuong Thok and Pamir refugee camps.

During the reporting week, a total of 2,268 returnees arrived from Renk to Malakal by boat, while a total of 1,600 returnees departed by air to Wau, Juba, and Rubkona. Data from a headcount conducted on 24 February found the population of Bulukat Transit Centre in Malakal to comprise 3,997 individuals (963 households).

Relocation

A convoy with 107 individuals (65 households) was relocated from Renk to Maban. A total of 5,525 refugees have been relocated to Maban since the beginning of the year.

Protection

Across the country, there is a discernible need to strengthen psychosocial support and mental health services to address psychosocial needs of people who have suffered from multiple displacement and who have either experienced or witnessed grave human rights violations including GBV.

450 individuals (70 households) in Malakal town and Bulukat Transit Centre were reached through protection monitoring activities with key concerns of food assistance, CRIs, shelter cash support,

access for safe drinking water, lack of shelters for accommodation at TC/Bulukat, and issue of theft cases at night being raised.

Prevention and Response against gender-based violence (GBV)

In Renk, psychosocial support sessions were conducted for both refugees and returnees in the women and girls' friendly space, reaching 173 women and girls.

Education

As of 18 March, the Government of South Sudan closed all schools in Juba and some parts of the country due to the heatwave expected to last for two weeks, with temperatures reaching 45 degrees Celsius.

In Jamjang, prior to the school closure on 18 March due to the current heatwave, there were 363 new arrival students from Sudan who were enrolled in Jamjang schools (312 in primary and 51 in secondary). School supplies were also distributed to 119 newly enrolled students from Sudan.

Health and Nutrition

In Renk, a total of 3,795 consultations were conducted in Transit Center 1 and Joda/Wunthau reception centre, of which 34% were refugees. Respiratory tract infections (42.6%), malaria (12.6%), and acute watery diarrhoea (6.3%) remain the leading causes of morbidity.

In Aweil, the Ministry of Health and WHO declared an outbreak of measles in all the five counties of Northern Bahr El Ghazal State, with increasing number of the reported cases. 28 suspected cases of meningitis were detected by MSF in Aweil State Hospital and samples collected and sent to Juba for further test and confirmation. MSF have created isolation areas in Aweil state hospital for case management of measles and meningitis. However, MSF is facing challenges of a shortage in admission beds and limited space due to the increase of cases.

In Pamir (Jamjang), the response to the measles outbreak continues, with 7 new suspected cases admitted in Pamir isolation unit. Since 7 March, the cumulative cases have reached 12 – with 6 discharged from isolation and 6 under follow up. The mortality rate remains zero.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

In Renk, the latest headcount (from transit centres including communal and family shelters) conducted on 20 March showed that there was a total population physically present in transit centres of 14,805 individuals (2,961 households). Of these individuals 3,560 (712 households) were refugees and 11,245 (2,249 households) were returnees. With this current population, the constructed shelters are overcrowded. During the reporting period, the estimated gap is around 274 communal shelters to meet the standard of 3.5 square metres per person.

In Aweil, on 20 March, World Vision conducted an assessment and verification of individuals residing in the transit areas. Thirty-eight women are staying in the transit shelter facility for new arrivals. They said it is difficult for them to relocate to the new settlement due to fear of potential rape and other forms of sexual harassment that they will be exposed to in the new settlement areas.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Renk, one block of bathing showers with 4 stances was constructed at the reception centre. Water usage is currently unregulated, leading to reports of some individuals collecting water to sell it.

In Aweil, excavation of 3 rubbish pits measuring 4m x 2m with a depth of 1.5m at strategic locations within the transit site is ongoing.

In Malakal, 150,000 litres (L) of clean drinking water were produced daily (1050 m³) this past week for an estimated 4,000 individuals at the transit centre, with an average of 37.5 L/day/person.

Cash Assistance (Core Relief Items)

Over the past week, UNHCR oversaw the ongoing cash assistance targeting 3,953 refugees by Smile Again Africa Organization for Development (SAADO), in Wedwil settlement.

UGANDA

Highlights

- Out of the 33,435 new individuals to Uganda in 2024, 40% are from Sudan. 11,808 of the Sudanese arrivals have been received in the settlements and 1,638 have sought asylum in Kampala. In total, there are 13,446 new arrivals from Sudan since the start of the year.
- Following a meeting between the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR, two registration desks will be established in Kiryandongo settlement. One desk will cater for those remaining in Kiryandongo, while the other will be for those that prefer to live in Kampala. The implementation will start on 25 March 2024. This will facilitate the formal residency and registration for refugees who will be staying in Kampala and better ensure direct assistance is directed to those who are staying.

Relocation

There were 261 Sudanese (56 households) relocated to the Kiryandongo settlement from Nyumanzi Reception Centre. The pace of the relocation is affected by the limited number of buses available within UNHCR offices in Adjumani. There are only three buses to support relocation across the four districts. This contributes to overcrowding and overstaying of new arrivals at the reception centres.

Those relocated from Kiryandongo Reception Centre to their plots of land in the settlement were 1,115 (478 households).

Protection

All registered individuals from Nyumanzi Reception Centre have been issued attestation letters and refugee identification.

During the week, a total of 944 new arrivals (382 households) were received in Adjumani, Lamwo and Kiryandongo from Sudan, representing 77 per cent of the individuals (1,225) received through those districts. 1,638 new arrivals were received in Kampala.

Education

On 12 March, UNICEF delivered a consignment of 17 tents to support emergency shelters for education in the settlement schools in Kiryandongo. These will help to cover the gap in classrooms, especially in primary schools and early childhood development (ECDs), due to increased enrolment with the new Sudanese arrivals.

Health and Nutrition

Health screening in the reception centre continues and an outreach facility in the area where new arrivals are being settled is required.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

Core Relief Items were distributed to 1,310 new arrivals (514 households) who were relocated to their family plots. In addition, 453 women and girls in the reproductive age (10-50 years) were each supported with sanitary materials.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Kiryandongo settlement, partners conducted hydrogeological surveys at four points in three clusters, in preparation for drilling two production wells. Once completed, this will increase the water supply across the three clusters.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) – January – December 2024

- On 7 February, UNHCR and 81 organization launched the [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#), with an appeal for **USD 1.4 billion** to provide essential aid and protection to **2.7 million people** expected to arrive in five neighbouring countries by the end of 2024, fleeing the ongoing conflict in Sudan. As of 27 March, the total funding for the RRP reached some USD 69,22 million or **5%** of the requirements.

Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) – January – December 2024

- The [Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan](#) was launched on 7 February and requires **USD 2.7 billion** to help 14.7 million people. As of 27 March, the total funding for the HRP reached some USD 135 million or **5%** of the requirements [OCHA FTS](#).

UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – January - December 2024

- UNHCR's total financial requirement for 2024 [Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal](#) – in Sudan and neighbouring countries – amount to **USD 988.1 million**. As of 29 February, the total available funding for the appeal is **11%** of the funding requirements.

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](#)).