

## Central African Republic (CAR) – SUDAN SITUATION

21–27 March 2024



*Sudanese refugee children in Korsi sometime after arriving in CAR. @UNHCR*

### 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.
- 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.

## Situation and Operational Response

### 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 center 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 benefited 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 neighborhood 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.

Four 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 7m<sup>3</sup> 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 m<sup>3</sup> to 130 m<sup>3</sup>, the average ratio is 13 liters 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 centers and water distribution points).

## Coordination

UNHCR supports the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) to lead and coordinate the Sudan refugee response. In Birao, whereby regular meetings with all relevant actors intervening in the area can exchange on the opportunities, challenges, and solutions vis a vis refugees living in Korsi and the areas nearby.

# Response Plans and Funding Situation

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

- On 7 February, UNHCR and 81 organizations launched the [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#), with an appeal for **USD 46.2 million for the Central African Republic (CAR)** to provide essential aid and protection to 71,176 people in need, **including 39,876 refugees** fleeing the ongoing conflict in Sudan by the end of 2024. As of 27 March, the funding for the CAR reached some USD 2.2 million or 5% of the requirements.

---

## UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – January - December 2024

- UNHCR’s total financial requirement for the 2024 [Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal](#) – in Sudan and neighboring countries – amounts to **USD 988.1 million**. As of 13 March, 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 neighboring countries.
- [UNHCR Global Focus Sudan Operation page](#)

**Contacts:** **Stella Fatime** – Public Information Associate ([fatime@unhcr.org](mailto:fatime@unhcr.org)); **Gloria Ramazani** – External Relations Officer ([ramazang@unhcr.org](mailto:ramazang@unhcr.org)).

Follow us on our [X \(twitter.com\)](#) [UNHCR Centrafrique | Bangui | Facebook](#)