

Flash Flooding - Kassala State

29 July 2024

Overview

- The heavy rain on 26 July 2024 in Kassala State caused flash floods, affecting five gathering sites and reception centres hosting over 10,000 internally displaced people who had fled the conflict in Sennar State earlier this month along with hosting communities in Kassala town and Gharb Kassala locality.
- Further rains over the weekend took place and meteorologic reports indicate that Kassala State will continue to be affected by heavy rains leading to more flooding across the state.
- Shagarab and Wad Sherifye refugee camps have also been affected by the floods. A little over 400 shelters were damaged in Shagarab refugee camps.
- The Kassala State Governor and Humanitarian Aid Commission in coordination with UN agencies, I/NGO and host communities have identified an area close to the Kassala airport where flood-affected IDPs can be relocated to.
- UNHCR and partners are assessing what support is required to relocate flood-affected people and coordinating the response in the key response sectors.



Families affected by the flash flooding in Kassala town. © UNHCR

UNHCR Response

- UNHCR and partners conducted initial assessments of the situation in the gathering sites and refugee camps to assess the damages and needs.
- Initial findings found that latrines were overflowing, many IDPs lost their belongings, food rations and have difficulty accessing clean water and sanitation facilities. Communal kitchens, set up to address the needs of the recently displaced, were also affected and food contaminated.
- Flooding and stagnant water become breeding areas for vectors and increase the risks of water-borne diseases, which will spread quickly in overcrowded gathering sites, which already have inadequate water and sanitation facilities.
- There is an urgent need for water purification materials to have clean water supply, to improve drainage at gathering sites and provide shelter materials to improve accommodation conditions. In addition, basic items which may have been lost or destroyed due to the flooding need replacing.
- Initial monitoring highlighted the difficulties faced by people who have now been displaced three or four times since the start of the conflict in 2023. This repeated displacement may result in increased stress and trauma and may lead to increased risks of sexual and gender-based violence or abuse. The continued lack of privacy and security will also increase the risks particularly for women, girls and older people.
- UNHCR can provide shelter and non-food items support as required and agreed in the coordination forum.
- UNHCR together with its partner is identifying the most vulnerable people in need of immediate support and making referrals as required.



UNHCR teams supporting flood-affected people move their belongings to dry land. © UNHCR



UNHCR Rubbhalls in Omar Ahi Musa gathering site, Kassala town which were used as temporary shelter and were accommodating some 8,000 people were flooded by the rains. © UNHCR

**Updated as at 17:00 Central African Time, 29 July 2024*

Special thanks to our donors including major donors of unearmarked contributions to UNHCR until July 2024:

Australia | Australia for UNHCR | Belgium | Canada | Central Emergency Response Fund | China | Conflict-Related Sexual Violence MPTF | Denmark | Espana con ACNUR | European Union | Finland | France | IGAD | Ireland | Italy | Japan for UNHCR | Monaco | Netherlands | Norway | Poland | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Arab Emirates | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United Nations Peacebuilding Fund | United States of America | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe

and Private Donors Worldwide

CONTACT

UNHCR Sudan External Relations Unit | Email: sudkhextrel@unhcr.org

LINKS

www.unhcr.org/africa
[UNHCR Sudan \(@UNHCRinSudan\)](#) | [Twitter](#)
[UNHCR Sudan](#) | [Facebook](#)
[Operational Data Portal](#)