CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

5 – 11 January 2025

Sudanese refugee influx continues in Am Daffock, the Sudanese border . ©UNHCR

Highlights

- While refugee-hosting areas in Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute Kotto, Ouaka, Mbomou, and Haute Mbomou remain generally calm, the risk of security deterioration persists. In Bamingui-Bangoran, cross-border movements of non-state armed groups between CAR, Sudan, and Chad have been reported since the start of the year, increasing insecurity risks in the coming months.

Population Movements and Registration

During the reporting week, 519 new refugees from 202 families arrived in Birao, located in the Vakaga prefecture. This number increased from 410 in the previous week. Korsi currently hosts a total of 17,645 Sudanese refugees from 7,474 families. Among these refugees, 54 per cent are women and girls, 46 per cent are men and boys, and 58 per cent are children.

The steady increase in new arrivals in Birao is driven by the onset of the dry season, the ongoing conflict in Sudan, and improved transportation options from the border. However, some refugees are forced to use unofficial and hazardous border crossings due to non-state armed groups in Sudan blocking their escape. These dangerous routes further underscore the growing vulnerability of refugees arriving in Birao.

The National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and UNHCR conducted biometric registration for 355 individuals from 136 families in Korsi during the reporting week. Among them, 47 individuals with specific needs were identified, including unaccompanied and separated children, women at risk, older persons, people with disabilities, and single parents.

Protection

UNHCR established a protection monitoring mechanism through community structures in Vakaga prefecture together with the newly selected protection partner. During the reporting week, two protection incidents involving physical aggression against men were reported, linked to opportunistic bandits. These incidents highlight the urgent need for enhanced security measures for both host and refugee communities.

<u>Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response</u>

The refugee women's association in Korsi conducted an awareness-raising session on GBV prevention, sexual abuse, and harassment, using materials translated into Arabic. The session will continue next week to ensure all 30 association members are reached.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

UNICEF's partner, Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH), completed 132 latrines during the reporting week, bringing the total in Korsi to 393 (261 emergency and 132 semi-durable latrines). With 17,645 refugees, the ratio improved to 45 people per latrine, meeting the Sphere emergency standard (50 people/latrine) but falling short of the normal phase standard (20 people/latrine).

Due to a malfunctioning borehole, the daily water supply decreased from 85,000 litres (5.5 litres/person) to 70,000 litres (5 litres/person), significantly below the Sphere standard of 15 litres per person/day. Refugees are supplementing their needs by collecting water from host community water points near Korsi.

UNHCR's partner NOURRIR conducted awareness campaigns through focus groups, block-by-block visits, and door-to-door outreach, reaching 3,679 individuals from 2,976 families. Key topics included fire prevention around shelters, latrine hygiene, dangers of open defecation, jerrycan cleaning, water point maintenance, and protecting children from contaminated water.

Shelter and Non-Food Items

On 6 January 2025, six fire incidents caused by a wildfire affected five Sudanese refugee families. In response, UNHCR, in collaboration with the CNR, provided tarpaulins to assist the families in constructing emergency shelters.

To meet the immediate needs of newly arrived refugees, UNHCR and WFP distributed 4.4 tons of dry food to 204 refugee families (549 individuals). Additionally, UNHCR provided 192 families (524 individuals) with core relief items, including mattresses, blankets, jerry cans, solar lamps, and cooking utensils.

Durable Solutions

The AZIZA Foundation, a local NGO, organized an awareness session in Bamingui Bangoran prefecture to inform refugees about computer training and driving lessons available for Sudanese refugees. Of the 500 refugees who attended, 300 were women.

Health and Nutrition

From 4 to 10 January 2025, medical teams from Comité de Secours et de Solidarité Internationale (CSSI) and International Medical Corps (IMC), under the coordination of the Vakaga Health District, carried out 824 curative consultations in Korsi. Of these, 89 consultations (11 per cent) were for the host population, while 735 (89 per cent) were for refugees, including 117 new arrivals (14 per cent). Among the patients, 250 children aged 0 to 59 months (30 per cent, including 112 girls and 138 boys) were treated. So far in 2025, a total of 1,123 consultations have been conducted, with 12 per cent serving host communities. The leading causes of illness remain malaria (327 cases, 40 per cent), acute respiratory infections (176 cases, 21 per cent), and intestinal parasitosis (84 cases, 10 per cent), with all patients receiving outpatient treatment.

During the same week, 42 forcibly displaced women received prenatal consultations, bringing the total to 60 to date in 2025. Three postnatal consultations were conducted, bringing the total to four so far this year, while 52 women underwent gynecological consultations, with a cumulative total of 68 to date. Thirteen women accessed family planning services, bringing the total to 18 to date. Additionally, two babies were delivered this week, resulting in three deliveries and three newborns reported so far in 2025.

In terms of nutrition, 250 children aged 6 to 59 months were screened during curative consultations between 4 and 10 January. Among them, 16 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and two cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were identified and treated. In total, 349 children have been screened in 2025, with 18 cases of MAM and three cases of SAM treated.

During the reporting week, 13 patients were referred from Korsi to Birao District Hospital, adding to the annual total of 17. Vaccination efforts included 22 pregnant women receiving tetanus vaccines and 12 children vaccinated with multi-antigen vaccines.

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 11 January, the total funding for the CAR remained at some USD 16.2 million or **35%** 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 11 January, the total available funding for the appeal is 30**%** of the funding requirements.

Resources

- UNHCR dashboard: Sudan Situation: One year on
- Data story: Sudan: One year of spiralling conflict and displacement
- End of Year Report Sudan Regional RRP 2023
- 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 Global Focus Sudan Operation page
- UNHCR Sudan Emergency website

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