

# Sudan

September 2021

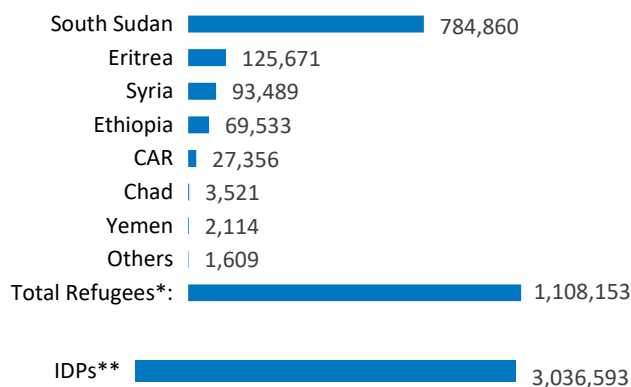
Sudan hosts **1.1 million** refugees and more than **3 million** internally displaced persons (IDPs). Recently, it saw new displacements from Ethiopia and within Darfur States.

UNHCR and partners continue responding to the needs of about **48,000 Ethiopian refugees** in East Sudan and **7,500 asylum-seekers** in Blue Nile State.

UNHCR supports **solutions for Sudanese IDPs and refugees**, such as voluntary return, legal work and self-reliance or, if needed and feasible, resettlement.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2021)

### Country of Origin

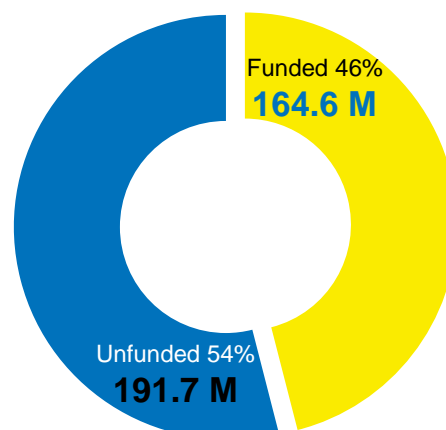


\*Source: UNHCR  
\*\*Source: UNOCHA

## FUNDING (AS OF 13 SEPTEMBER)

### USD 356.3 M

requested for the Sudan situation



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### 628 Staff

458 National Staff  
170 International Staff

### 15 Offices

- 1 Country Office in Khartoum
- 5 Sub Offices in Kassala, Gedareff, Kosti, Kadugli and El Fasher
- 7 Field Offices in Khartoum, Girba, El Foula, Nyala, Eg Geneina, Ed Daein and Damazine
- 2 Field Units in El Obeid and Zalengei



Refugee children at Hamdayet, Transit Centre (Kassala State), one of Ethiopia-Sudan crossing points.  
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# Working with Partners

- UNHCR, with Sudan's Commissioner for Refugees (COR), leads and coordinates the refugee response in Sudan as co-chair of the Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF). The forum brings together partners, including NGOs, who provide protection, such as legal aid, health services, food, water, hygiene and sanitation.
- The [Country Refugee Response Plan 2021](#) brings together over 38 partners to respond to the needs of about 968,000 refugees and about 268,000 people in host communities.
- UNHCR coordinates the Emergency Shelter/Non-food-items (NFIs) and Protection sectors (i.e., clusters) for IDPs as part of an inter-agency response. It manages the NFI Common Pipeline as a reliable source of plastic sheeting, blankets, kitchen sets and mosquito nets etc. for IDPs, distributed by partners. UNHCR co-chairs the Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) at Khartoum level which provides policy, broad coordination and advocacy support. UNHCR with IOM also co-chair the Counter Trafficking and Mixed Migration Working Group (CTWG) aims at facilitating a holistic and comprehensive approach to prevent and combat trafficking in persons through coordination and collaboration among agencies and organizations.
- As part of the response to the Tigray situation in eastern Sudan, UNHCR has been actively supporting the authorities, at their request, with service mapping and inter-agency coordination. Currently, UNHCR works with some 30 partners to provide lifesaving assistance and protection to the thousands of Ethiopian women, men and children who crossed into the country.

## Highlights

### Ethiopia's Emergency Refugee Response

- In early November 2020, clashes in Ethiopia's Tigray region sparked an outflow of refugees into eastern Sudan via Hamdayet (in Kassala State), Lugdi/Village 8 and Al Asera (in Gedaref State) border points. With refugees crossing the border in thousands at the onset of the crisis, UNHCR swiftly relocate them to Um Rakuba camp – located about 70 kilometres away from the Ethiopian border – in Gedaref State. With Um Rakuba reaching capacity, Tunaydbah settlement – located approx. 136 kilometres from Gedaref town – was opened in January 2021. The relocation was then put on hold by authorities and is set to resume in the month of September 2021 for about 8,000 refugees still at border's transit centres.
- As of today, UNHCR with Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and partners are responding to the needs of about 55,000 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers from Tigray (nearly 48,000 in Kassala and Gedaref States), Benishangul-Gumuz (around 7,500 in Blue Nile State) and Amhara regions (about 2,000 in Gedaref State).

### Flood Response in White Nile State

- On 6 September 2021, flash floods in Kilo Arba (K4), in White Nile State, submerged some 50 villages, displacing over 80,000 people and destroying crops, cattle and livestock. Residents left the area and took sheltered in public buildings while others remained trapped by the flood waters. Among those displaced also about 35,000 refugees from Algana'aa refugee camp, which was inundated due to the spillage from K4, and some 5,000 from the Alagaya camp, a nearby site that was also impacted. They reportedly moved to open areas, along roads or self-relocated with family and friends in other camps.
- UNHCR and partners are closely collaborating with COR, Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and local authorities to respond to the emergency. The flood interagency coordination forum in White Nile State, chaired by HAC with the participation of Government, UN agencies, national & international NGOs, holds

regular bi-weekly coordination meetings to properly coordinate the response and needs of the flood affected populations.

- Significant progress has been made in terms of construction of communal shelters, provision of healthcare and WaSH services and distribution of food and live saving supplies.

### The Solutions Initiative

- As part of a joint efforts, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), together with the governments of Sudan and South Sudan supported by the international community, has embarked on a Solutions Initiative for the forcibly displaced people in Sudan and South Sudan. The initiative aims not only to support the political process in seeking solutions for those displaced in the region, but also to reinforce the peacebuilding and economic reforms in both countries.
- UNHCR is actively supporting the Solutions Initiative and, in the lead-up to a national durable solutions strategy in Sudan, has identified and been advocating for the following “low-hanging fruits” with meaningful impact:
  - The operationalization of the 2012 Framework Agreement on the Status of Nationals of the other State and Related Matters to regularize the stay of persons of South Sudanese origin.
  - Community-driven area-based programs to support the sustainable reintegration of returnees by supporting: (i) basic service delivery, including health, education, and WaSH; (ii) livelihoods and economic opportunities; and (iii) environmental rehabilitation and natural resource management.
  - Address the immediate and medium-term needs of the about 200,000 South Sudanese refugees in Khartoum.
  - Support the implementation of the nine policy pledges that the Government of Sudan made at the [2019 Global Refugee Forum](#).

## Main Activities

### REFUGEE RESPONSE

- Sudan hosts one of the largest refugee populations in Africa. South Sudanese make up the majority. Many others fled violence and persecution in neighbouring countries, including Eritrea, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, and Chad, but also the wars in Syria and Yemen pushed people to seek safety in Sudan. Most refugees live in out-of-camp settlements, host communities and urban areas (67%), while others (33%) stay in 24 camps and many more settlements (10 in East Sudan, 1 in Blue Nile State, 10 in White Nile State, 2 in East Darfur and 1 in Central Darfur State).

### Protection

- UNHCR supports national authorities to register and document asylum-seekers and to assess their claims for international protection. It also works with the government to protect and assist refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people so that they can enjoy their rights and receive civil documents, such as birth certificates.
- UNHCR in partnership with COR, is distributing PVC ID cards to refugees in Khartoum, Kassala and Gedaref States. So far, 484 refugees received them in September, for a total of issued ID cards of 37,047. These new ID cards will help refugees to open bank accounts, get work permits and have better access to humanitarian services.
- UNHCR monitors the protection situation of refugees with a focus on survivors of sexual or gender-based violence (S/GBV) and victims of trafficking (VoT), unaccompanied and/or separated children (UASCs) and

people with specific needs (PSNs). It also advises on and supports referral systems and other protection interventions.

- UNHCR engages in community-based protection activities and supports a range of community-led projects, such as rehabilitation of infrastructure, and networks to better address needs and concerns.

### Education

- UNHCR continues to work directly with the Ministry of Education (MoE) both at the Federal and State levels to ensure quality education for all refugee, IDPs and other Persons of Concern (POCs) children in Sudan. Subsequently, UNHCR supports the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Sudan Education Sector Strategic Plan which already included refugee education.
- UNHCR works closely with UNICEF, in line with their Letter of Understanding (LoU), to support refugee and IDP children scattered within host communities. Through its partners and community-based assistance the aim is to increase the enrolment of refugee children in host community schools. UNHCR covers education for refugees in the camps.
- Most schools reopened successfully in January 2021. Students sat for national examinations in grades 6 and 8, with all examination centres being sanitized, and COVID-19 protocols being adhered to throughout the examination period. For grade 8, a 78% pass rate was observed among refugee students in Sudan.
- Following the devaluation of the Sudanese currency, refugee teachers were assessed and then graded as per the MoE payroll standards and incentivized accordingly. This will help a smooth transition when the government will take them onto their payroll.
- Tertiary education is a key service that UNHCR is committed for the refugee's students to allow them to continue their academic programmes in various higher education institutions in Khartoum. These services are provided through the implementing partner Windle Trust International. Currently, 281 students are being supported with scholarships covering registration, part of the tuition fees and monthly allowances. Additionally, International University of Africa through an LoU with UNHCR is providing scholarship for refugee students studying different academic programmes. More recently, UNHCR and Windle Trust International extended the DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship application deadline for refugee youth in Gedaref. The DAFI programme plays an integral role in enabling refugees to access higher education and offers 150 scholarships country-wide.

### Health

- UNHCR along with its project and operational partners provide Primary Health Care services at refugee camps and to out of camp refugees as well as emergency health referral to secondary or tertiary level when needed.
- Primary health care services include management of communicable and non-communicable disease, sexual and reproductive health, nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions vaccination/immunization, health education and behaviour change communication.
- Basic emergency obstetric and neonatal services are provided at the camp level while comprehensive services, including caesarean sections, are accessible at referral health facilities.
- Tuberculosis and HIV services are provided through the National HIV and TB programmes for refugees who have already been on treatment from their country of origin, and newly infected cases by applying the national HIV and TB treatment protocol.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) is integrated with primary healthcare and community-based protection. General healthcare workers are trained to identify and manage priority mental health conditions.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR works with the WFP, FAO and line government ministries to ensure that refugees have access to the nutritious food they need. Food ration (in-kind, voucher or cash) is given to refugees on a monthly basis to provide 2,100 KCAL/person/day. The in-kind food basket includes sorghum, oil, salt and lentils. UNHCR works with its nutrition and food security partners to design community-based projects that support resilience. Some of these projects include nutrition sensitive agriculture whereby refugees are trained to produce nutritious food.
- UNHCR is working with partners to detect, refer and manage acute malnutrition via community-based nutrition programmes (CMAM) targeting children under 5, pregnant and lactating women.
- UNHCR Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) programme encompasses exclusive breastfeeding (breast milk up to 6 months of age), complementary feeding, child feeding in emergencies and nutrition counselling.

### Shelter and NFIs

- In support of the country wide 2021 Flood Preparedness and Response efforts, Shelter and NFIs Sector has developed the flood preparedness and response plan as reference to all stakeholders. In 2020, the Sector was able to respond to the needs of more than 285,000 individuals (an estimated 57,000 households) in Darfur, Kordofan, Sennar, Khartoum, Kassala and Red Sea States. In 2021, 425,000 people are projected to be impacted by the floods, based on a OCHA 5-year country wide analysis.
- The main needs identified by the Sector are life-saving full NFI assistance which includes kitchens set, jerry cans, blankets, plastic mats, plastic sheet, solar lamp and mosquito nets. Emergency shelter solutions are also prioritized in case of need.
- Shelter and NFIs support to displacement due to intercommunal conflicts continues, resulting in distribution of NFI and Emergency Shelter Kits, and implementation of some Cash for Emergency Shelter assistance, mainly in Darfur region.
- Considering the short lifespan of the emergency shelter kit, needing constant replenishment of construction material for repair and maintenance, a more durable shelter design has been put forth. Durable Shelter, i.e., *tukuls*, is planned to be implemented in various localities (return and urban integration) for both refugees (in eastern Sudan, to replace tents) and returnees (in Kordofan, Darfur and White Nile). *Tukuls*, broadly adopted by Shelter and NFIs sector partners, are made with local and natural material. An owner-driven approach is often used, to involve communities – including locals – in the construction process.
- Throughout the second quarter of 2021, the sector responded to the NFI needs of nearly 246,800 individuals (49,359 families) in Darfur, Kordofan, Blue and White Nile and east States. Beneficiaries reached are mainly newly accessed people and displaced in Darfur due to inter-communal violence. The sector also assisted almost 10,190 families (approx. 61,140 individuals) with emergency shelter kits (ESKs) in East and Central Darfur and Gedaref States. As preparedness measure for the rainy session, the Shelter and NFIs sector has prepositioned more than 24,000 NFI kits and around 13,000 ESKs in floods prone localities across Sudan.

### IDPS RESPONSE

- There are 3.03 million IDPs in Sudan with around 2.5 million in Darfur. UNHCR has presence in all five Darfur States, and it plans to expand its presence in more remote areas.
- The Protection Sector, through its Protection Working Groups has identified a total of 64 hotspot localities out of which 41 are across Darfur while the others are in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. There are many hotspot areas in all these localities which include IDP camps, gathering sites, villages of displacement and return. In 2020 the Protection Cluster recorded a total of 280 intercommunal violence and factional fighting incidents. This resulted in the displacement of more than 200,000 IDPs and local population, burning

and looting of villages, markets, houses and livestock mainly in West Darfur but also to some extent in South, North and Central Darfur States.

- The situation remains volatile in 2021 with intercommunal violence continuing to displace another 200,000 people in West Darfur, Greida and Tulus localities in South Darfur and parts of East Jabal Mara and Kabkabiya locality in North Darfur. Again, houses, villages were burned, properties including livestock and markets looted.

## PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

- Working with UNITAMS, UNDP and other agencies, UNHCR supports capacity building of Protection of Civilians Committees in all of Darfur States and other projects according to the National Plan for the Protection of Civilians.
- UNHCR, with sister agencies, has five Peacebuilding Fund projects in Darfur (concluding in 2021) jointly implemented in selected localities of each Darfur State, with a focus on durable solutions, rule of law, and local peacebuilding. Key interventions are on protection focusing on peaceful coexistence (e.g., community reconciliation committees and protection networks), civil documentation, and community support projects.
- Through partnership with UN Central Emergency Relief Fund, there are projects in Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile focusing on 1) community-based protection interventions; 2) Community Support Projects; 3) Emergency Shelters/Non-Food Items distribution.

## DURABLE SOLUTIONS

### Voluntary Return

- UNHCR supports the government in enabling safe, dignified and sustainable returns of Sudanese refugees and IDPs. Returns require solutions to the root causes of conflict, such as land disputes and security.
- Work is also ongoing to resume Voluntary Repatriation programme with Chad. A Tripartite Agreement was signed back in 2017 between Government of Sudan, Government of Chad and UNHCR. The voluntary repatriation of refugees from/to these countries was launched to then be suspended in March 2019 due to the volatile political situation in Sudan. The programme was supposed to restart at the turn of 2021 but did not go ahead because of new spark of violence in Darfur. From April 2018 to March 2019, around 3,800 Sudanese refugees returned from Chad in 15 convoys, while about 6,000 Chadian refugees returned in 19 convoys from December 2017 up to 2019.

### Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

- Refugees who cannot return nor locally integrate, may be resettled to a third country, provided places become available. UNHCR facilitated the departure of more than 300 individuals in 2020, also through other legal pathways such as family reunification.

### Alternative Solutions

- UNHCR advocates for and supports the government in realising its pledges made at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum to seek durable solutions to displacement. This includes the integration of refugees in the national health and education systems, as well as providing them access to the labour market. UNHCR advocates for refugees to have unbureaucratic access to the labour market and supports authorities in issuing work permits.

## External / Donors Relations

### Thanks to direct contribution to UNHCR Sudan operation in 2021\*

**United States of America** 92.6 million | **UN Peacebuilding Fund** 4.1 million | **European Union** 3.5 million | **Country-Based Pooled Funds** 2.5 million | **Italy** 2.4 million | **Sweden** 2.3 million | **Canada** 2.3 million | **Denmark** 2.3 million | **Netherlands** 2.3 million | **Germany** 1.8 million | **Qatar** 1.2 million | **Switzerland** 1 million | **Japan** 1 million

*\*(more than US\$ one million)*

### Special thanks to major donors of unearmarked funds in 2021\*

**Norway** 80 million | **Sweden** 66.9 million | **Private donors Spain** 55.7 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 28.5 million | **United Kingdom** 28.4 million | **Germany** 26 million | **Japan** 23.4 million | **Private donors Japan** 20.7 million | **France** 20.2 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Italy** 14 million | **Ireland** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Private donors Sweden** 11.9 million | **Italy** 10.7 million

*\*(more than US\$ 10 million)*

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## LINKS

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