

Sudan

January 2023

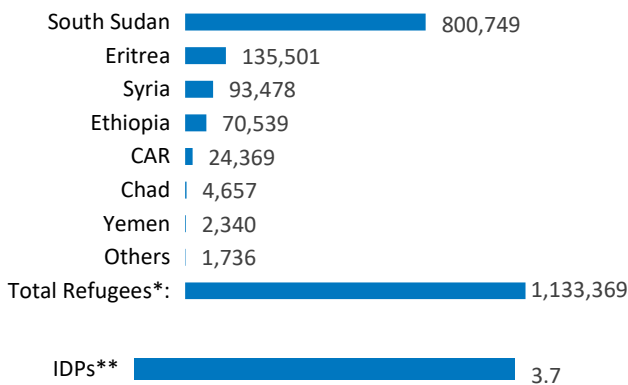
Sudan hosts **1.13 million refugees and more than 3.7 million** internally displaced persons. Recently, it saw new displacements from South Sudan and within Sudan.

UNHCR and partners continue responding to the needs of about **47,200 Ethiopian refugees** in East Sudan and nearly **8,800 Ethiopian asylum seekers** in Blue Nile State.

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

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 JANUARY 2023)

Country of Origin



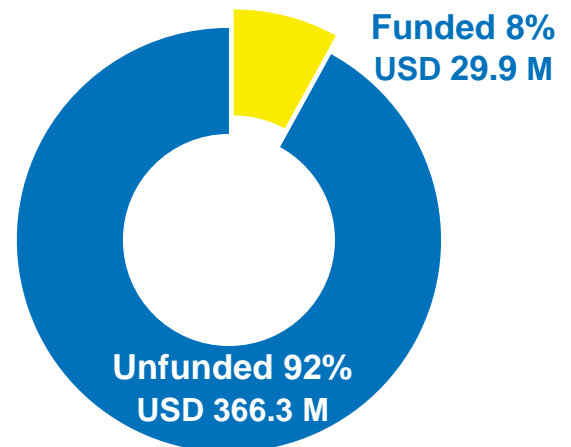
*Source: UNHCR

**Source: UNOCHA

FUNDING AS OF 31 JANUARY 2023

USD 396.2 M

requested for the Sudan situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

697 Staff

510 National Staff

187 International Staff

16 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

3 Field Units in El Obeid, Abu Jubiaha and Zalengei



UNHCR distributes tents to newly arrived refugees from Central African Republic.
©UNHCR/Behrooz Taleb

Operational Context

Sudan hosts one of the largest refugee populations in Africa. South Sudanese make up the majority of currently hosted 1.13 million. Many others fled violence and persecution in neighbouring countries, including Eritrea, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, and Chad. Wars in Syria and Yemen also pushed people to seek safety in the country. Most refugees live in out-of-camp settlements with host communities and urban areas (61%), while others (39%) stay in 24 camps and many more settlements.

The country also hosts 3.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), mostly in the Darfur region that has suffered from a volatile security situation for almost two decades. Regular episodes of armed violence keep driving people to flee their homes. Together with the Sudanese Government, UNHCR ensures protection and delivery of multisectoral assistance to displaced people in need.

Sudan's current operational environment remains highly complex with a volatile outlook given the ongoing political impasse, deteriorating socioeconomic conditions, ongoing inter-communal conflicts in Darfur as well as precarious security situations in many parts of the country. The situation remains volatile in other regions, such as Kordofan and Blue Nile States, where intercommunal conflict, civil unrest and criminal activities occasionally disrupt the operations of the humanitarian organizations.

In addition to such complexity, the regional dynamics also contribute significantly as there are constantly evolving scenarios in the neighbouring countries, such as Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Central African Republic, and CHAD, presenting various challenges to Sudan's asylum capacities.

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 access humanitarian services, such as legal aid, health services, food, water, hygiene and sanitation.
- The [Country Refugee Response Plan 2023](#) brings together over 41 partners to respond to the needs of about 900,000 of the 1.1 million refugees in Sudan. The interagency Response Plan is appealing for US\$ 556 million to deliver life-saving assistance while also engaging essential linkages between humanitarian and development actors to promote resilience and to work towards durable solutions.
- Sudan is part of the [South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#) which is an annual multi-agency response that outlines the strategies and actions needed to respond to the ongoing South Sudan refugee crisis in the five main countries of asylum: the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. In 2023, it includes the financial requirements of 108 humanitarian and development partners to meet the critical needs of over 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers and 1.89 million members of their hosting communities.
- UNHCR coordinates the Emergency Shelter/Non-food-items (NFIs) and Protection sectors (i.e., clusters) for IDPs, returnees and host communities 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.

Highlights

New refugee influx from South Sudanese

- Renewed conflict in Upper Nile State, South Sudan, has caused over 9,800 South Sudanese refugees to flee to Sudan since 1 December, seeking protection and assistance. This includes over 6,500 individuals in White Nile, and nearly 3,300 individuals in the eastern corridor of South Kordofan. In December 2022, A plan was developed to response to potential influx of 13,500 individuals (10,000 in White Nile and 3,500 in South Kordofan).
- UNHCR and collaboration with the government of Sudan and partners have been responding to the urgent needs of the new arrivals providing them with assistance including food, water, shelter, health care and core relief items.

Cessation of hostilities agreement and return of Ethiopian Refugees

- Since the signing of the cessation of hostilities agreement between the Ethiopian government and Tigray People's Liberation Front in November 2022, UNHCR has held several discussions with different groups of refugees and is closely monitoring the situation in the camps and at the border for any returns. Most of the refugees indicated a wish to return home, however, they expressed hesitance towards returning, at least right away. UNHCR teams in eastern Sudan and in Ethiopia held joint preliminary discussions about a contingency plan for returns of Tigrayan refugees and are working on developing possible scenarios for return movements.
- UNHCR together with COR and partner agencies continue to provide more than 56,000 Ethiopian refugees the assistance including food, water, shelter, health care and education.

Main Activities

REFUGEE RESPONSE

Protection

- As of January 2023, UNHCR and COR individually registered 76% of the refugees in Sudan. 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 Sudan has embarked on a countrywide plan to mainstream Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) across the operation. With support from UNHCR the AAP Working Group has been revived on the national level promoting coordinated action and planning within the Humanitarian sector. The long-term plan is to enhance Communication with Communities and meaningful participation of crisis affected populations. This is to ensure core actions and minimum standards are mainstreamed within all programs and activities and refugees are at the core of decisions which affects their lives.

Education

- During 2022, through various partnerships with State Ministries of Education (SMoEs) as well as other partners, 71,507 children were supported in primary schools, 3,475 in intermediate level mostly located within the primary schools and 4,400 children in secondary schools. Support received included textbooks, school

uniform, school bags and examination fees. Additionally, 2,415 children in primary schools and 102 children in secondary schools received cash assistance through UNHCR's cash for education program.

- During 2022, at the tertiary level, 257 refugee students were supported to continue their university studies in various universities across Sudan also through UNHCR's cash for Education program.
- Almost 70% of basic school and over 90% of secondary school age refugee children are out of school across Sudan. For refugee children, families continue to grapple with balancing between providing basic needs or sending their children to school. Education related fees differ by state resulting in challenges in standardizing aid packages that support refugee children.
- UNHCR and partners identified five priority areas for education in 2023: (1) Increase the enrolment of out of school children; (2) support the integration of Refugee Education into the national system; (3) support the capacity building of Ministry of Education and related bodies; (4) address school environment needs; (5) continuous advocacy for inclusion and fundraising for the sector.

Health

- UNHCR through its project and operational partner continue provision of Primary Health Care (PHC) services for refugees both in camps and out of camp settings. The same services are provided free of charge to Sudanese nationals within the surrounding host communities. In addition to PHC services, medical referral is done to secondary and tertiary health facilities with over 50 refugees referred in January.
- To ensure access to primary health care services for both refugees and hosting communities, UNHCR continue to work closely with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to support services delivery. UNHCR handed over two vehicles (one ambulance and one high top) to MOH in East Darfur to facilitate medical referrals and transport of staff and donated medical equipment in Kassala to enhance diagnostic services. UNHCR continue to work with various state MOH on the provision of PHC services.
- In line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the government of Sudan Pledge to gradually Integrate health services for refugees in National Health System, refugees and other persons UNHCR serves were included into the national COVID-19 vaccination campaign. The campaign is ongoing across the various states including refugee camps or settlements.

Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR in partnership with partners conducted Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) in White Nile and Gadaref states. Findings suggest a critical/serious/poor Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) prevalence with persistent underlying conditions including poor access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, low access to mosquito net, low coverage of COVID 19 vaccination, frequent episodes of communicable diseases including malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia.
- Attributed to funding limitation, in July last year, WFP introduced 50% food ration cut for 6 months which had impacted the food security situation among refugees as shown in recently conducted SENS surveys in White Nile and Gadaref. In January 2023, it was announced that funding was granted to resume the provision of full food ration (100%) to refugees in Sudan.
- In January 2023, WFP informed nutrition partners in Sudan of a shortage in supplies needed to manage moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). UNHCR is working closely with WFP and donors to advocate and fundraise to make sure that refugee needs are met.

Shelter and NFIs

- During the year of 2022, UNHCR responded by NFI distribution to the needs of more than 656,000 individuals (an estimated 113,700 households) in Darfur, Kordofan, Khartoum, Kassala, White Nile, Blue Nile, Al Gazirah, Sennar, Northern Abyei and east States.

- In addition, UNHCR provided shelter assistance to more than 200,000 people (an estimated 39,300 households) in 2022.
- The main needs identified by the Sector are life-saving full NFI assistance which includes kitchens set, jerry cans, blankets, sleeping 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 continue and flood affected households, resulting in distribution of NFI and Emergency Shelter Kits, and implementation of some Cash for Emergency Shelter assistance, mainly in Darfur region, White Nile, and Kassala.
- UNHCR continued to support the response of displaced people from Blue Nile due to the intercommunal conflict, 900 tents have been provided in White Nile to support the displaced families in the new IDP site there.
- UNHCR is currently implementing shelter project funded by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) via cash for shelter to assist 6,000 households impacted by the flood last year in five states, South Darfur, Central Darfur, Kassala, Gedaref, and White Nile.

WASH

- During the year 2022, 691,809 persons we serve representing 61% of all refugee population groups and asylum seekers were reached with access to safe drinking water through support of operation and maintenance activities of 51 water supply systems and new water sources development as well as water pipeline extensions across all the refugee hosting states.
- During 2022, in kind distributions of personal hygiene kits to 247,766 women and girls of reproductive age were completed to enhance their menstrual hygiene management.
- During the last quarter of 2022, UNHCR successfully piloted cash assistance for personal hygiene kits and soap to 38,875 women and girls of reproductive age (6,572 IDPs and 32,303 refugees) in East Darfur, North Darfur, Khartoum, Kassala and Gedaref states empowering them to make own choices for the products.
- During the year 2022, six water pumping systems were solarized (5 in White Nile States and 1 in Kadugli) initially run by diesel generators thus adopted climate resilient approaches towards carbon footprints reduction.
- During 2022, latrine coverage was increased to 32% through construction of additional 1,461 household latrines and 549 communal latrines and rehabilitated 3,311 existing communal latrines and 587 bathing facilities across the various refugee hosting locations reducing susceptibility to WASH related diseases.
- During 2022, UNHCR partners conducted 336 communal vector control campaigns including the collection and safe disposal of nearly 3,400 metric tonnes of garbage across various refugee camps.

Energy and Environment

- During the year 2022, UNHCR through Forests National Corporation (FNC), promoted clean energy cooking in White Nile States through distribution of 30,919 litres of ethanol fuel to 1,000 households with ethanol stoves in Dabat Bosin and Um Gargour camps and host communities.
- In 2022, UNHCR supported FNC to install two metallic ethanol tanks of 5000 litres at Dabat Bosin and Um Gargour camps to provide storage for ethanol fuel to easy ethanol refilling process considering the ethanol; fuel source is exclusively from Kenana Sugar Factory located in Kosti town.
- During 2022, a total of 1,604 hectares of land were planted trees through production and distribution of 182,000 tree seedlings to individuals and communities for community collaborative forestation, home gardening mostly fruits and shade trees etc.
- During 2022, a total of 7,893 households received fuel assistance in form of ethanol fuel, firewood from Mesquite trees, compressed charcoal and sawdust charcoal. In addition, 2,295 energy efficient stoves were

distributed to Ethiopian refugees to reduce on fuel consumption and in return the negative impact of environmental degradation.

- Moreover, environmental conservation trainings were offered to 1,739 refugee households to improve their environmental protection practices including safe energy use.

Cash Based Interventions

- In 2022, UNHCR provided cash assistance worth US\$5 million made up of Multipurpose Cash (42% of CBI Budget), Emergency Shelter (33%), WASH- personal Hygiene Kits (16%), Education (8%) and other Ad hoc CBI (1%). A total of 76,967 households comprised of 56,365 refugee households, 19,207 IDP households and 1,395 Host Community households received cash.
- In the last quarter of 2022, UNHCR piloted Cash for Personal Hygiene Kits to 38,875 women and girls of reproductive age group (6,572 IDPs and 32,303 refugees), in Gedaref, Kassala, Khartoum and the Darfur states, with an average grant of US\$16/individual.

IDPS RESPONSE

- In 2022 the Protection Cluster recorded a total of 370 intercommunal violence and factional fighting incidents.
- During 2022, over 418,000 people were displaced as a result of intercommunal conflict and violence. Over 30 per cent of those displaced followed fighting that took place in Blue Nile from July.
- Incidents of intercommunal violence between communities, mainly over access to and control over resources, continued to displace and affect civilians in parts of Sudan, with 12,278 people displaced in December 2022 in South Darfur, South Kordofan and West Kordofan states.

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 UN agencies, implemented Peacebuilding Fund projects 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, UNHCR implements 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

Resettlement

- In 2022 a total of 1,319 individuals were submitted to the United States, Sweden, Canada, Australia and Norway. 497 individuals departed to Canada, Sweden, Norway, the United States and Australia. 62% of submissions were referred under legal and/or physical protection needs category, 22% under women and girls at risk while the remaining were submitted under medical needs and children and adolescents at risk categories. 84 individuals were referred under urgent and emergency priority.
- For 2023, UNHCR Sudan has received an increased resettlement quota allocation. 1,800 individuals of which 1,500 will be referred to the United States, 200 to Australia and 100 to Canada. The operation has expanded resettlement activities to different states and will now process vulnerable individuals out of Khartoum, Kassala, White Nile and Gedaref.

Complementary Pathways

Family Reunification

- During 2022, a total of 34 asylum seekers and refugees living in Khartoum and East Sudan were supported by UNHCR to reunify with their relatives in Australia, Canada France, Germany, Switzerland, UK, USA.

Education

- During 2022, UNHCR organized four information sessions concerning calls for application for scholarships through the Mastercard foundation program. This activity reached about 80 students who expressed interest in knowing more about education scholarship opportunities in third countries. A widely accessible Telegram channel was launched by UNHCR in order to share ongoing scholarship opportunities with refugee students and tips on how to apply.

Partnerships and Coordination

- In the second half of 2022, quarterly bi-lateral consultative meetings were regularized with consular sections or migration units of embassies of destination countries. UNHCR is using this platform to inform countries on activities related to third country solutions for refugees (resettlement, family reunification, education pathways and labor mobility) and to brief attendees on documentation available to refugees and registration processes in Sudan.

The Solutions Initiative

- On 30th January 2023, the government of Sudan launched the “National Durable Solutions Strategy” with the government of Sudan endorsement through approval by the Council of Ministers. This provides an impetus towards attainment of solutions for displacement, will rekindle the momentum on the [GRF](#) pledges, provide a strategic framework for implementation of solutions initiatives and a great opportunity towards execution.
- 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 advocates for and supports the government in realising its pledges made at the [2019 Global Refugee Forum](#) to seek durable solutions to displacement. This entails inclusion 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.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

- UNHCR developed a five-year livelihoods strategy (2023-2025) to complement the Multi Year Multi Partner Solutions Strategy (MYMPSS) for Sudan and respond to the “National Solutions Strategy for Displacement in Sudan” adopted by the government of Sudan. The strategy adopts and sets the pace for implementation of the whole society approach by engaging a wide range of partners or actors to promote economic empowerment, self-reliance, and inclusion of refugees in planning systems.
- In October 2022, UNHCR organized a private sector workshop to explore the context, challenges and opportunities thereby drawing a clear picture of key areas along sectors and various value chains where refugees alongside their host community counterparts can be included to participate in areas with high potential either to create employment or business opportunities including areas of engagement.

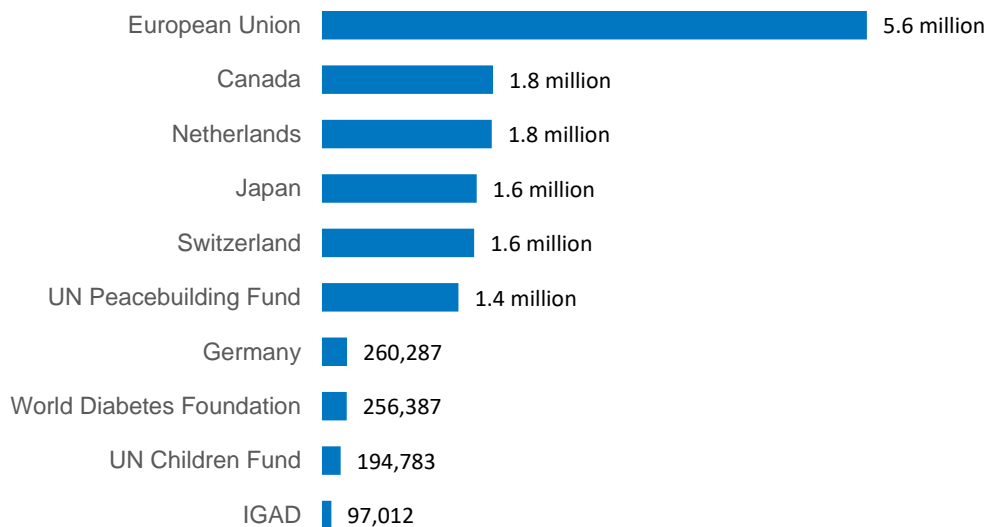
- UNHCR facilitates the implementation of livelihoods interventions through collaboration/partnerships and advocacy with implementing and operational partners. UNHCR will also participate in joint resource mobilization and programming with key partners such as UNDP.
- In collaboration with ILO, Ministry of Labour, COR, UNHCR facilitates advocacy for review of processes that create barriers to access work permits for refugees to access gainful employment opportunities. This ensures easy facilitation of linkages with the private sectors to create employment opportunities for refugees.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 14.5 million**.



BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONSⁱ | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

Canada 3.9 million | Norway | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONSⁱⁱ | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden 77.6 million | Norway 63.1 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Netherlands 34.1 million | Germany 23.1 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million

Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

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LINKS

[Data Portal](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Regional Website](#)

ⁱ Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Sudan. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.

ⁱⁱ Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.