

## SUDAN SITUATION

23 – 25 May 2023



32-year-old Ashta fled Tindelti in the Darfur region of Sudan with her husband and six children. "In Tindelti, I was growing onions. When a member of our community was killed, we decided to leave town. We arrived in Chad a fortnight ago." "We took our children and left. The older ones walked, the smaller ones were on the back of our donkey and the baby was on my back."

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### Highlights

The conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have continued for 40 consecutive days on 25 May.

On 23 May, the UN Security Council held a meeting on the situation in Sudan and received briefings on the latest political and security developments from the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan; the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs.

SRSG Perthes informed the Security Council that despite repeated ceasefire declarations, the conflict in Sudan does not show any sign of slowing down and neither side is able to claim victory yet. He also spoke of the regional refugee situation and called on all neighboring countries to keep their borders open.

The United States have [announced](#) USD 245 million in additional support to Sudan and neighboring countries experiencing the impacts of the ongoing humanitarian crisis. These funds include nearly USD 143 million from the Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration, and USD 103 million in additional humanitarian assistance from the US Agency for International Development's Bureau for Humanitarian Affairs.

On 23 May, UNHCR’s Assistant High Commissioner for Operations called for strong international support for Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries. Concluding a four-day visit to Chad, he [expressed appreciation](#) to the Government and people of Chad for their generosity in hosting almost 700,000 refugees, including an estimated 90,000 newly arrived Sudanese refugees.

*“Almost 90 per cent of new arrivals (from Sudan) are women and children. As the rainy season approaches, we urgently need to relocate new arrivals to the nearest refugee camps.”* – [@RaoufMazou](#) during his visit to Chad.

On 23 May, UNHCR’s Representative in South Sudan [highlighted](#) that 2,000 refugees have also fled Darfur to South Sudan. UNHCR is sending teams to remote border areas where thousands are displaced. As fighting in Nyala and El Geneina is intensifying, many more could be expected to flee.



27-year-old Khadija Kharif Adam from Sudan talks to UNHCR’s Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Raouf Mazou about her new life in Gaga camp in Chad. © UNHCR/Aristophane Ngargoune

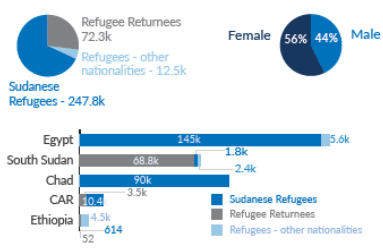
## Resources

- The UNHCR *Operational Data Portal* (ODP) for the Sudan Situation is an information and data sharing platform, which provides daily updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan’s neighbouring countries: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation>
- The UNHCR *HELP site for refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan* provides information to individuals seeking information or support inside Sudan (in [English](#) and [Arabic](#)).
- UNHCR *Global Focus Sudan Operation page*
- UNHCR *Sudan Emergency website*

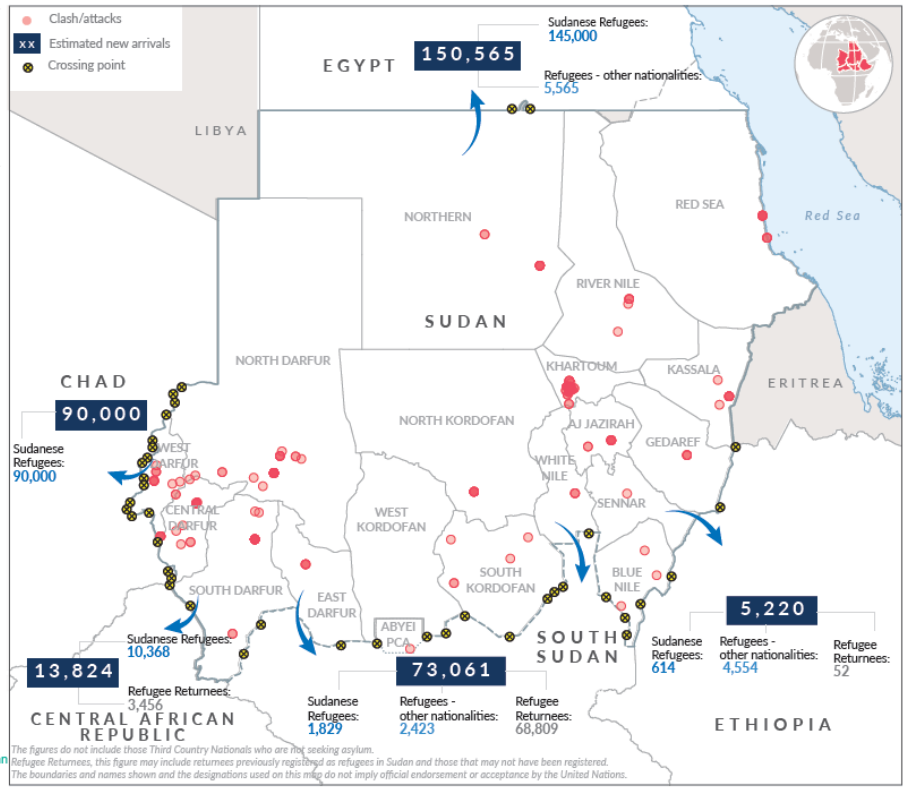
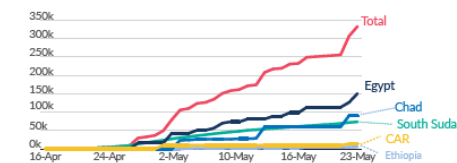
**OVERVIEW:** Countries neighbouring Sudan impacted by this new emergency are already hosting large refugee and internally displaced populations. The majority remain severely underfunded. Hosting countries will need additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance. Initial assessments show that the new asylum-seekers, refugees, refugee returnees and other arrivals' most urgent needs identified to date are water, food, shelter, health, and core relief items. In terms of protection, the current priority activities are the registration of new arrivals, relocation away from the border ahead of the imminent rainy season and ensuring that mechanisms are in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and ensure alternative care services for unaccompanied refugee children.

**332,670** Estimated newly arrived individuals  
**260,353** Total newly arrived refugees/asylum seekers

**Arrivals by population and estimated gender type**



**New arrivals from Sudan**



The figures do not include those Third Country Nationals who are not seeking asylum. Refugee Returns, this figure may include returnees previously registered as refugees in Sudan and those that may not have been registered. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

## Situation and Operational Response

### SUDAN

The situation throughout the country remains tense and volatile. In Khartoum, clashes continued to be reported throughout the city. Widespread looting including of UN facilities is also reported. Outside of Khartoum, the situation Darfur continues to be volatile, with both Nyala (South Darfur) and Ed Daein (East Darfur) witnessing sporadic clashes between SAF and RSF leading to many civilian casualties. Widespread looting of UN and NGO facilities is also reported in Zalenjei (Central Darfur).

On 17 May, the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) issued a resolution renewing, until the end of September 2023, the registration of national and foreign organizations whose registration certificates have expired and had not been renewed due to the ongoing conflict.

### Updates by location

#### Khartoum

Physical protection monitoring and planned Nonfood Item (NFI) distribution continue to be suspended as the recent ceasefire has not been fully respected. However, during the weeklong ceasefire, UNHCR will focus on conducting a remote needs assessment and monitoring exercise to understand the numbers and needs of the population remaining in Khartoum. There have been anecdotal reports that routes out of Khartoum have been open during the first days of the ceasefire, which allowed some of those trapped or waiting in Khartoum to leave.

### Jazirah State (Medani)

UNHCR's legal aid partner Mutawinat informed UNHCR that the State authorities in Medani carried out large-scale roundup operations where they arrested many forcibly displaced persons on 21 May. Mutawinat immediately intervened and, as a result, all the individuals were released without charges after being held for five hours in police custody.

According to the information shared, the state government in Medani is conducting the roundup operations to curb the presence of refugees and asylum-seekers in the state and encourage their relocation to Gedaref state.

### Gedaref

Relocation of refugees and asylum-seekers to Gedaref from Medani (Jazirah state) continues. As of 22 May, a total of 384 refugees and asylum-seekers had been relocated to safety since the exercise began on 17 May.

The newly relocated in Um Gargour have received core relief items, including blankets, sleeping mats and jerrycans and continue to receive hot meals. They are being temporarily accommodated in communal spaces while the relocation is ongoing; more individuals are expected to be transferred in the coming days.

In parallel, shelter partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is pitching emergency shelters while the construction of latrines and showers continues. The water pipeline has been set up and will be connected to the local water network soon. In the meantime, water is being trucked in and distributed through a bladder.

UNHCR partner Mutawinat conducted monitoring of detention centers, prisons and police stations and identified 24 forcibly displaced persons (17 Ethiopians and 7 Eritreans) who had been detained. Following Mutawinat's intervention, they were all released without charges.

A massive fire incident broke out in the host community in Tunaydbah on 22 May. The fire spread quickly and affected many locations including an NGO guesthouse. Assessment is ongoing to identify possible support to those affected by the incident.

### Kassala

The general volatile security situation has adversely affected the situation in and around the Shagarab camps, with a heightened risk of smuggling and trafficking. UNHCR received information that smugglers and traffickers have adjusted their modality of operation and shifted routes. Smugglers are reportedly charging USD 1,000-2,000 to facilitate irregular movement from the Shagarab camps to Egypt and Ethiopia. UNHCR is intensifying awareness campaigns through [Telling the Real Story \(TRS\)](#) refugee community volunteers in the camps, through social media channels and other platforms used by the refugees.

WFP concluded food distribution in the Shagarab camps for the month of May, which reached 52,497 individuals. WFP were not able to distribute to the entire target population as the prepositioned stocks had been calculated according to the numbers from the previous distribution in April before the arrival of refugees who self-relocated from Khartoum and other areas.

In Shagarab 2 camp, the water supply – particularly to the schools – has been affected by vandalism of the main water pipeline. This has impacted educational activities and poses health risks. UNHCR and its WASH partner are working to resolve the issue.

UNHCR continues to work to support partners in overcoming various operational challenges hampering implementation of activities. With support from UNHCR, some of the partners such as Sudanese Red Crescent Society and Talawiet Organization for Development were able to withdraw money from the bank amidst persistent challenges regarding access to cash. This will enable them to continue responding to needs and providing critical life-saving services in the camps. Additionally, to support the primary healthcare activities taking place in the refugee camps, UNHCR has been able to facilitate the release of medicine supplies to health partners, the State Ministry of Health and ALIGHT.

### White Nile

The security situation has been stable amid increased patrols of security forces in the evenings in Kosti and Rabak towns. In the camps, there is an observed increase in small gang activity reportedly targeting host communities and the older refugee population. UNHCR has engaged security forces to quell the tensions.

Verification of the arrivals is ongoing. As of 23 May, a total of 33,301 individuals were verified, of which 27% (9,113 individuals) were already registered in Khartoum while 73% or (24,188 individuals) are unregistered. Some 75% of the verified population are women and children.

Immediate assistance is being provided in the form of emergency shelter materials, essential household items, healthcare services, education support, and access to clean water and sanitation facilities. UNHCR has so far managed to distribute core relief items to 536 new arrivals, build 15 communal shelters, pitch over 50 family tents to be used as communal shelters, improve water treatment capacity by raising the working hours of the water treatment plants and deploy water bladders and water trucking.

WFP has undertaken food distribution for the refugee and IDP population including some 19,000 of the secondarily displaced refugees from Khartoum. New arrivals are added to the distribution list as they are verified.

### Blue Nile

The general security situation remains calm with no significant conflict-related incident reported. UNHCR together with partners and WFP accessed Camp 6 to oversee the distribution of food assistance to refugees. The first day of the distribution went smoothly. Although the distribution started late, about 10% of the population received double rations for May and June. The start to the distribution of food assistance helped calm the situation in the camp. UNHCR and its partners continue to provide basic services, including water and healthcare and conduct activities in the camp's child-friendly space.

### Central Darfur

The situation remains dire, as Zalingei has been under siege since 19 May. A health officer from one of UNHCR's project partners in Um Shalaya Camp was tragically killed in addition to several other civilians, including government employees and four children. There are reports that UN offices and guesthouses and staff residences had been looted between 19 and 20 May.

Public institutions and government facilities including police stations have been under attack. Looting continued to be reported in banks, schools, and hospitals in addition to private residences. Civilians face difficulty in obtaining medical care because of the targeting of health facilities, restrictions on the movement of civilians, and targeting and intimidation of medical and health personnel.

Resistance committees in Zalingei report the heavy deployment of armed militias on motorcycles around and inside the city, with continued looting and threatening of citizens inside homes, restrictions on movement of civilians, and obstruction of access to public services. Zalingei remains completely cut off from all telecommunication services.

### West Darfur

On 22 May, the convoy of Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and Sudan Liberation Movement—Minni Minnawi (SLM/MM) organized to improve security conditions in El Geneina after intense clashes between armed communities was ambushed and attacked by militias on the way to El Geneina. No further clashes were reported in El Geneina town on 23 May, but sniper attacks continued to be reported in the southern parts of town.

Local partners including the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and Dar for Community Development aimed to use the week-long ceasefire to conduct assessments, with all UN agencies sending messages to all stakeholders on the need for a ceasefire to hold in El Geneina for humanitarian operations to resume. UNICEF is looking at options to provide WASH assistance through an implementing partner but the distribution or movement of supplies within and into El Geneina is generally not foreseen to be possible in the current situation.

### East Darfur

The situation has calmed following the successful efforts of the native administration to quell tensions. In the last week, electricity outages have been challenging and the lack of electricity has impacted services, mainly water and the provision of medical care.

UNHCR received reports from the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) that some 250 individuals arrive daily from areas such as South Darfur, Khartoum, and El Obeid (North Kordofan), some of whom intend to stay while others are in transit.

In the refugee settlements, essential services including health and WASH continue to be provided. The Ministry of Health delivered anti-malaria medicine in Kario Camp. However, the general shortage of drugs is posing a challenge.

### South Darfur

The situation remains unpredictable. The breakdown of communication networks continued. UNHCR was able to conduct physical protection monitoring for the first time since the start of the ongoing conflict through a visit to five new IDP gathering sites in Nyala.

### West Kordofan

The security situation in El Fula is relatively calm, although movement out of town in all directions is increasingly insecure due to banditry along the major highways. Additionally, an increase in armed criminal gangs were reported along the highway between Al Khiwai and Al Nuhud localities, reportedly intercepting, shooting and looting civilians on the road during the past few days.

UNHCR continues to receive information from community-based protection networks, which report various protection incidents, including physical assault, gender-based violence, and exploitation due to lawlessness and insecurity.

### South Kordofan

Lack of food has been reported as the biggest challenge among refugees. The planned distribution of a two months ration could not take place due to the security situation. Health partner Al Manar Organization continues to provide healthcare services at limited capacity due to the shortage of drugs and medical supplies.

UNHCR is working with International Aid Services to seek solutions to access fuel, which has affected the delivery of water services in Sirajiya and Dar Batti settlements.

Staff from the Sudanese Commission on Refugees (COR) report that 295 South Sudanese refugees from Khartoum, North Kordofan, and West Kordofan arrived in Dilling town.

### North Kordofan

The situation is tense following reports of heavy artillery on 22 and 23 May. Sporadic artillery shelling was heard in El Obeid and armed movements were observed around the town. UNHCR received reports from refugee leaders of South Sudanese arriving from unsafe areas into several parts of El Obeid.

## SOUTH SUDAN

According to joint border monitoring by UNHCR, IOM and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), the cumulative arrivals as of 23 May is 13,978 households / 73,625 individuals, including mainly South Sudanese returnees (93.5% / 68,809 individuals); as well as Sudanese (2.5% / 1,829 individuals); Eritrean (2.0% / 1,478 individuals); and others (2.0% / 1,509 individuals), including Somalis.

Of these, nearly 79.5% / 58,566 individuals crossed through Joda/Renk in Upper Nile State; around 6.7% / 4,937 individuals through Panakuach in Unity State/Ruweng Administrative Area; around 4.0% / 2,968 individuals through Abyei Amieth in Abyei; and nearly 9.7% / 7,154 individuals through the other 14 border-crossing points.

## Maban (Upper Nile)

### **Renk**

New arrivals: Cumulatively, 58,566 individuals have arrived and been recorded at the Joda border point, the vast majority being South Sudanese returnees.

Refugees and asylum-seekers: A total of 679 households / 941 individuals have expressed their willingness to go to the existing refugee camps in Maban.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM): The total population at the transit center currently stands at 3,624 individuals (1,809 males and 1,815 females) with tens of thousands of other returnees remaining in and around Renk town. A general hygiene cleaning campaign was initiated with the support of Solidarity International. The African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD) have started construction of communal shelters that can accommodate 27 individuals each in line with emergency standards.

Onward movement: IOM is distributing tokens and wristbands for private boat departures and those chartered by Caritas.

### **Paloich**

UNHCR and CRA continue to share information about the Maban camps with refugees and asylum-seekers camped at the privately owned airstrip in Paloich and assist those who are willing with transport – however, interest remains very low.

South Sudanese government officials and UNHCR have agreed that Eritreans who will be relocated to the Maban refugee camps will be provided with refugee documents in the camps. Eritreans who wish to remain in Paloich town and choose not to apply for asylum will have to pay for immigration documents and visas, to be renewed every six months. Those who would like to start a business will be able to obtain a traders' license and pay taxes to relevant authorities.

### **Maban**

On 25 May, UNHCR in Bunj received a group of more than 350 Sudanese refugees from the Blue Nile State in Sudan. It is the first time since the beginning of the conflict that the office received a large group. Up to 25 May, Sudanese refugees (cumulatively, almost 2,000 since 15 April) have been arriving individually or in small groups, mostly from Khartoum or Darfur. The refugees who arrived on 25 May at the Doro Camp indicated that many more may be coming.

An increasing number of Eritreans and Sudanese refugees have agreed to move out of the Reception Centre at Doro camp to family tents on allocated plots. After a security incident on 20 May, more police and community night watch have been deployed.

## Malakal (Upper Nile)

Cumulatively, 2,312 households / 11,921 individuals have arrived at greater Malakal area since the start of the influx from Sudan, most of whom moved through Renk and arrived by boat.

Recording of returnees arriving by land/road remains a gap as the government committee has not decided on methods for systematic registration, and only some come to the reception site.

UNHCR and IOM are jointly carrying out registration and vulnerability assessments among the arrivals to Malakal.

## Jamjang (Unity | Ruweng Administrative Area)

### **Panakuach**

Cumulatively, 1,249 HH / 5,310 individuals have been received through Panakuach border point and shortcut roads from 21 April to 23 May 2023. The majority are South Sudanese returnees (1,217 households/ 5,245 individuals) who have been transported to Rotriak/Lalop, while 32 HH / 65 individuals are refugees who have been transported to Ruweng Administrative Area.

UNHCR and IOM have undertaken rapid vulnerability checks. The main vulnerabilities identified were pregnant women and sick persons, followed by a few elder persons.

The authorities have provided land for a reception/screening facility at Panakuach where UNHCR has already installed handwashing points and is working on the construction of communal shelters to be used overnight by new arrivals who come during evening/night hours.

### [Wau \(NBeG | WBeG | Abyei Administrative Area\)](#)

#### **Northern Bahr El Ghazal State (NBeG)**

Wadwil transit site: UNHCR, IOM and World Vision International (WVI) have agreed on a division of responsibility for registration of new arrivals at entry points with UNHCR/WVI presence at Kiir-Adem, while IOM will cover Majokyinthiou and Jaach border points, as well as Gokmachar. IOM will also take over registration at Mayom Angok, Rumaker, Warguet and Achana, which are border points that recently became active.

UNHCR, IOM, RRC and WVI are working together to register returnees and identify vulnerable families, using UNHCR developed pre-registration tools, with the aim to assist the most vulnerable with transport to their areas of origin.

Basic services such as hot meals, mobile clinic, and nutrition screening are ongoing for the new arrivals.

#### **Abyei Administrative Area**

The situation of Eritrean refugees who have arrived from Sudan remains unresolved, with refugees who had originally agreed to be relocated to the camps in Jamjang having changed their minds and indicated a desire to stay in Mayom to look for jobs. UNHCR and CRA are in discussion with the authorities in Mayom to determine next steps as the refugees do not have documents that would allow them to apply for a different immigration status.

## **CHAD**

As of 24 May, following the recent influx of refugees in the Ade Department, Sila Province, the estimated number of arrivals in Chad has reached 90,000, of which 90% are women and children.

The relocation exercise to safer areas, which started on 15 May, continues as the security situation in certain areas of the border remains volatile. As of 24 May, 3,815 refugees have been relocated to the existing camps, where extension areas have been prepared, including establishing shelters, basic amenities and infrastructures to accommodate the new arrivals.

#### **Registration**

Since the beginning of the emergency, a total of 61,195 individuals have been counted, the majority of which are in Ouaddai province. A total 20,189 arrivals have been pre-registered. Counting and pre-registration exercises will soon take place for the new arrivals in the Ade Department in the Sila Province.

#### **Protection**

Through the interagency protection monitoring system "P21", a total of 1,540 households were interviewed as of 18 May and data was collected in several villages in Ouaddai and Wadi-Fira provinces. Results from the monitoring included:

#### **Arrival and Integration**

- 85% of the households interviewed have not encountered any difficulties in accessing the country of asylum.
- 63% of the households did not face any protection threats since their arrival in Chad, while 31% mentioned having been physically assaulted.
- 25% of the households indicated having family members that remained in Sudan and who will travel to Chad once the situation allows.
- 56% of the households have no intention of returning to Sudan even if the situation improves in the next month.
- 24% of the households have no documents; while 26% has various types of documentation, such as identity cards and/or voter registration cards; 50% have birth certificates.



### Education

- 35% of the households interviewed have school age children.
- 86% of the households have children who were in school in Sudan.
- 55% (10,917 individuals) of the pre-registered population are of school age and 54% out of them are girls; of those: 30% (3,232) are of preschool age, 43% (4,746) are of primary school age, and 27% (2,939) are of high school age.

### Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection

- 70% of the households interviewed do not feel safe in the streets due to the risk of GBV.
- 11% of the households reported that children are exposed to physical aggression and child marriage.
- 2% of households mentioned that there are unaccompanied children in the refugee community, living with host families.

### Food Distribution

As of 23 May, 52,490 refugees have received food assistance from WFP (46,328 in Ouaddai and 6,162 in Sila).

### Core Relief Items Distribution

As of 19 May, a total of 7,132 households (25,870 individuals) have received CRIs through UNHCR, Chad's National Commission for Refugees and Returnees (CNARR), Chadian Red Cross (CRT) and HIAS.

### Health and Nutrition

As of 23 May, 12,444 medical consultations have been conducted. Malaria, acute respiratory infections, and watery diarrhoea remain prevalent conditions. In total, 5,852 children have been screened for malnutrition; 20,139 children have been vaccinated against measles; and 14,639 children have received deworming treatment.

### WASH

To expand water supply as of 21 May:

- UNHCR conducted a joint mission with Ministry of Water and Sanitation to discuss the possibility to ensure groundwater resources for the new camp of Arkoum, in the Ouaddai Province.
- A total of 1,146 m<sup>3</sup> of treated water was supplied between 19 to 21 May to the arrival sites and to the Gaga camp extension zone in the Ouaddai province.
- UNHCR's partner LMI construction of a large new borehole in Gaga camp.
- 3 water tanks, with a capacity of 5 m<sup>3</sup> each, were connected to six taps by UNHCR's partner SECADEV and are operational at the three sites in Guereda.
- 8 water tanks, with a capacity of 5 m<sup>3</sup> each, were connected to 32 taps and are operational in the Gaga camp extension area.
- Help is drilling a borehole in Farchana camp.

### Sanitation and Hygiene

In Ouaddai province, as of 22 May:

- 70 latrines and 70 showers were constructed by UNHCR's partner LM International (LMI) in the Gaga camp extension zone.
- 90 latrines were constructed in Koufroun, Midjiguita, Dize Berte by UNHCR's partners CARE, LMI, and ADRA.
- 12 defecation areas were prepared by LMI at the Borota site.

### Shelter

UNHCR's partner ADES worked on enhancing accommodation capacity in already existing camps:

- 700 transitional family shelters constructed in Gaga camp, Ouaddai.
- 55 family tents installed in the Kounougou camp, in Wadi Fira.
- 100 transitional family shelters constructed in Kounougou camp.
- 300 transitional family shelters were constructed in Mile camp, in Wadi Fira.
- 1 hangar was constructed at the transit centre in Kounougou, in Wadi Fira province.
- 12 solar streetlights were installed in Gaga camp, in Ouaddai province.

## ETHIOPIA

In the Amhara region, together with RRS and partners, UNHCR is working on the development of the land allocated by the authorities for a transit site in Mandefo Tarara, near Metema town. The relocation of new refugees and asylum-seekers is on-going. The West Gondar zonal authorities have also allocated some 57 hectares for a permanent refugee site, situated in Kumer 70km from the Metema border point. UNHCR is looking towards the development of this new site applying the settlement approach, using and expanding resources and infrastructure already available in the area for the host community.

In the Benishangul Gumuz region, UNHCR has established a transit center in Kurmuk with the capacity to host 800 people and is currently facilitating its expansion, with the plan to relocate Sudanese refugees to the camps around Assosa.

In Gambella region, the security situation has deteriorated since 21 May, with reported daily exchanges of gunfire. On 22 May, intense fighting was ongoing for more than two hours, and getting increasingly closer to the UNHCR compound. The federal police and Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) were deployed to Gambella town.

While the situation has calmed down in the city, the situation in the Itang woreda remains tense with reports of renewed fighting on 24 May around the border areas, which may impact the inflow of refugees to Gambella region via South Sudan. The security developments in Gambella have led to the restriction of movement of UNHCR and partners' staff to refugee camps.

### Population movements

As of 23 May, 5,220 individuals / 2,713 families (74% Eritreans, 12% Sudanese, and 13% South Sudanese) have been screened by UNHCR and verified. Out of overall screened population, 45% had previously registered as refugees in Sudan before their departure to Ethiopia (including 52 Ethiopian refugee returnees), while 55% are new asylum-seekers who were not registered in Sudan before.

Of these, 81% crossed through Metema, 14% entered via the Kurmuk border point in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, and 5% through Pagak/Burbley in the Gambella region. A total of 45% of the screened population are women and girls, while 55% men and boys.

### Protection

In Metema, as of 23 May, 152 persons (including 97 women) with specific needs (pregnant women, elderly persons, persons with chronic illnesses and persons with disabilities) have been identified at the reception desk. UNHCR is providing material support and prioritizing them for relocation to the transit site.

16 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) have been identified since 15 April. UNHCR is providing material support, while partners are following the cases to ensure that the appropriate care-taking arrangements are in place and that the children have access to basic services.

A total of 31 cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases have been recorded by UNHCR so far. The survivors are provided with medical, psychosocial, and material support, and are being prioritized during the relocation to the transit site.

In Assosa, 126 women and families with disabilities have received referrals for additional support. Ten youth-led sport clubs in the camp have been reestablished.

### Health response

The health post at the Metema transit site is not yet fully functional, WHO is in the process of procuring the necessary equipment. Refugees therefore continue to travel back to the border to seek medical services.

### Food and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

A total of 2,442 individuals have received food assistance in Metema. WFP delivered 1.8 metric tons of high energy biscuits at the Metema transit site.

In Kurmuk, UNHCR has had to reduce the daily provision of hot meals from three to two due to budget constraints.

### **Shelter and WASH**

In Metema, UNHCR continues developing the plot of land at Mandefo Tarara allocated by the authorities for a transit site. So far, 24 emergency shelters have been completed with a capacity to house some 1,200 people. As of 23 May, 1,141 refugees and asylum-seekers have been relocated from the Metema border to the transit site. Given the increasing number of refugees and asylum-seekers being screened and relocated to the site, maximum capacity of 1,500 people will soon be reached.

As of 22 May, a total of 593 persons have been accommodated in the transit center in Kurmuk. Further relocations of Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees/asylum-seekers from the transit site to the Sherkole refugee camp are planned. The Sherkole camp, which was established in 2008 for South Sudanese refugees, was rehabilitated by UNHCR two weeks ago, including living blocks with communal kitchen and WASH facilities.

## **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)**

In support of the Central African Government's efforts and in an extremely difficult operational and logistical context, UNHCR and its partners are providing a protection response focused on the urgent needs of Sudanese refugees arriving in Am-Dafock and on the needs of Central African refugees returning home.

A total of 13,824 persons have arrived in CAR from Sudan, including 10,368 Sudanese refugees and 3,456 Central African refugee returnees. They are staying with host families or have settled in spontaneous camps, as well as in schools in Am-Dafock. Given the fragile security situation at the border, relocation to safer areas is crucial. As the security situation in Nyala remains volatile, additional arrivals can be expected.

Biometric registration began on 17 May, while new arrivals are still being observed crossing the border. Registration is made difficult by the extreme remoteness of the areas, the lack of communication and infrastructure, and the volatile security situation.

In addition to immediate protection needs, newly arrived Sudanese asylum seekers and Central Africans refugees returning identified food assistance as their top priority, followed by access to Core Relief Items (CRI).

### **Registration**

As of 21 May, 3,023 individuals (737 households) were registered, of which 1,237 individuals (323 households) have expressed their interest to relocate to safer areas. Biometric registration will continue with an average processing target of 750 individuals per day.

### **Relocation**

A safer relocation site, further away from the border, has been identified by authorities at about 2km from the town of Birao. UNHCR and its partners will clear the site and construct basic infrastructures, including 10 communal shelters, 2,000 family shelters, latrines, and showers.

Given the logistical challenges that the imminent rainy season will pose, voluntary relocation is expected to start as soon as the 26 May with 1,000 refugees per day and priority given to biometrically registered refugees and the most vulnerable individuals.

### **Core Relief Items (CRIs)**

A total of 500 households (311 refugees / 187 returnees) have received CRIs (blankets, jerrycans, buckets, sleeping mats, kitchen set and mosquito nets) from UNHCR. A total of 619 dignity kits was distributed over the past few days.

### **Shelter**

To date, 14 community shelters, seven latrine blocks and seven shower blocks have been built.

### **Food security**

To date, nearly 9,500 persons have received food rations from WFP.

## **WASH**

An assessment on the rehabilitation of boreholes was conducted in Am-Dafock and 14 latrines were constructed UNHCR and ICRC.

## **EGYPT**

### **Arrivals**

As of 24 May, over 150,500 people have entered Egypt from Sudan since 15 April, comprising 145,000 Sudanese individuals and 5,565 third-country nationals, as reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to UNHCR.

### **Registration**

Since 18 April, over 7,053 individuals seeking international protection have approached UNHCR Egypt for registration, the vast majority being Sudanese nationals. All asylum-seekers have been given registration appointments and UNHCR has scaled up registration capacity to respond to the demand.

Almost all new arrivals in Cairo interviewed by UNHCR had family members or strong community links in Cairo, and a few already had flats rented through their family or friends. All new arrivals indicated that they were planning to stay in Cairo for the time being.

### **Protection**

UNHCR has noted a significant increase in the number of vulnerable Sudanese individuals seeking refuge in Egypt, most of whom are women, children, and elderly who have depleted their resources while fleeing Sudan. They face pressing needs for nutrition, healthcare, and shelter. Recent reports indicate that many children exhibit signs of trauma. Almost all newly arrived individuals require assistance to travel from the border area to Aswan, and subsequently to Cairo. In the long term, crucial priorities include education and family reunification. Sudanese community leaders have cautioned UNHCR to anticipate a continuous influx of arrivals.

UNHCR continues to meet with newly arrived Sudanese in Aswan and Cairo to gather information about the journey and their immediate needs. For example, a Sudanese mother from Khartoum informed that her journey to Wadi Halfa took three days, with an additional day at the border where passengers could not leave the crowded bus at night. Sudanese families are staying at a temporary shelter managed by a Sudanese community school, which is accommodating arrivals for 48 hours. Most say that their intention is to travel to Cairo and other major cities to access livelihood opportunities. Many of them shared that they had no choice but to sell their personal belongings and assets to cover the costs of their journey from Sudan to Egypt.

### **Core Relief Items (CRI)**

UNHCR, through the Egypt Red Crescent (ERC), is providing emergency assistance at the border, including the distribution of water and hygiene items and other services. UNHCR is scaling up its assistance with the upcoming delivery of rub halls, family tents, mattresses, floor mats, blankets, and more sanitary packs. UNHCR will also provide material support to the border authorities.

### **Main needs and gaps**

The situation on the Sudanese side of the border is still very concerning. The Egyptian authorities have taken the necessary measures to expedite the entry process, although the large numbers of new arrivals remain a challenge in terms of processing capacity. Reports indicate that conditions at the Sudanese side of the border include lack of water, food, WASH facilities, and speculation on the higher costs of the buses from Sudan to Egypt, all resulting in people being held for long periods of time in dire conditions. The ERC reported many medical cases arriving at the border due to the failure of the health system in Sudan. To that end, the Ministry of Health and Population has deployed equipped ambulances to the border to assist with health care.

### **Coordination**

UNHCR is strengthening engagement and coordination with partners in the south and border areas, establishing mechanisms for the coordination of the interagency response on the ground, and continuing to engage local authorities and community-based organizations to assess the needs and scope of the response.

## Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)



**1.1M PEOPLE**

TOTAL PLANNING FIGURE



**640K**

SUDANESE REFUGEES AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES



**204K**

REFUGEE RETURNÉES



**166.5K**

MIGRANT RETURNÉES



**51.5K**

THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS



**\$470.4M**

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



**140**

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

- The [Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#) has been issued for a period of six months (May – October 2023) and requires **USD 470.4 million** to support refugees, returnees and host communities in the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan. The funds are intended to help **over 1 million people**, including refugees, returnees and third country nationals.

## Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

- The 2023 inter-agency [Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) for Sudan has been revised due to the soaring needs spurred by the current crisis. The revised HRP (May – December 2023) requires **USD 2.56 billion** – an increase of USD 800 million from just a few months ago, to help **18 million people** until the end of this year.

You can also find here a [Joint Summary of the Revised Humanitarian Response Plan and Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Sudan Crisis](#).

## UNHCR Supplementary Appeal for the Sudan Emergency

- In line with the inter-agency plans, UNHCR has published a [Supplementary Appeal](#), which outlines UNHCR's specific increased financial needs for the Sudan situation emergency response – both within Sudan and in neighbouring countries receiving refugees and refugee returnees.

The financial requirements total **USD 253.9 million** (May-October 2023). This includes an amount reallocated from ExCom-approved requirements totaling USD 114.5 million and supplementary needs of USD 139.4 million for urgently needed humanitarian assistance, which come in addition to the existing requirements for the concerned operations (already amounting to USD 1.421 billion in 2023).

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