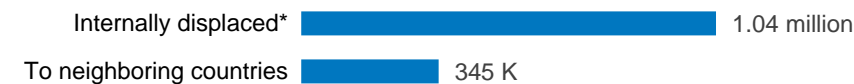


Sudan Situation Report

29 May 2023

DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

1.4 million displaced since 15 April 2023



*Source: IOM DTM

UNHCR PRESENCE

Operational posture and emergency structure

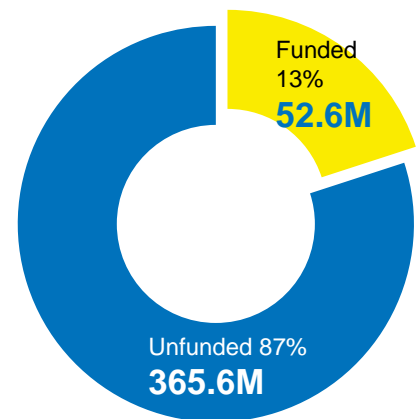
- 1 Representation Office in Port Sudan
- 3 Sub Offices in White Nile, Gedaref, Kassala
- 2 Field Offices in Blue Nile, Girba
- 1 Support Office in Nairobi (Kenya)

In addition, UNHCR is establishing a field unit in Dongola (Northern state), a hub in Wad Madani (Jazirah state), and a presence in the proposed UN hub in Abeche, Chad to respond to the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

FUNDING STATUS

USD 418.2 million

requested for the Sudan operation



*As of 23 May 2023

Highlights

- **Clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have continued into the seventh week**, despite multiple ceasefires including the most recent one which expired on 29 May.
- The **situation in the Darfur region continues to be of concern**, following intense clashes in West and Central Darfur and renewed fighting in North Darfur.
- **Rains have started in the eastern states** of Gedaref, Kassala, and Blue Nile which caused destruction in Gedaref due to the lack of resources for rainy season preparedness measures. UNHCR teams are visiting camps in the three states to ascertain the extent of impact in Gedaref, and to assess any damages in Kassala and Blue Nile.
- UNHCR continues to engage OCHA in **efforts to establish common UN cross-border operations** from Chad to respond to the humanitarian situation in Darfur.
- The mapping of internal movements of refugees and asylum seekers reflects that **159,325 individuals have so far fled Khartoum** to the other states of Sudan. Mapping is ongoing.
- Since the start of the conflict, UNHCR has reached **12,700 people** with NFI assistance. The **transport of core relief items** continues to be a challenge due to the security situation.
- Most partners in **Khartoum and the regions of Darfur and Kordofan** have **temporarily suspended operations**. In other states, **lack of access to cash and fuel and unstable connectivity** continued to be reported by partners as major challenges hampering the delivery of protection and assistance.

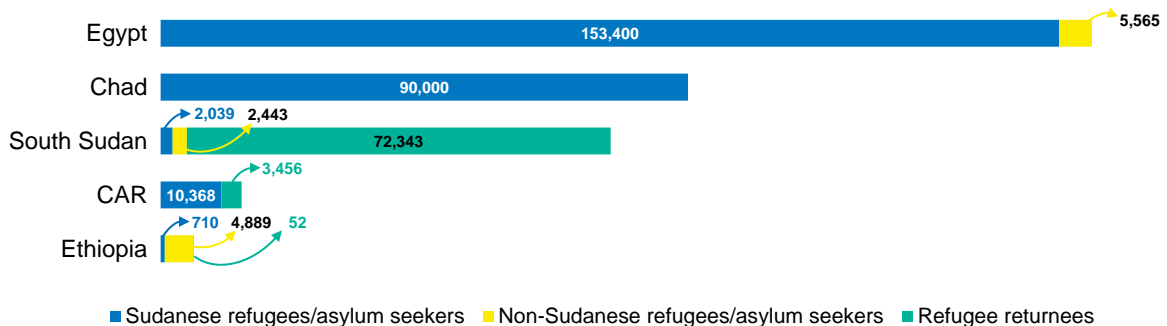
Security developments

- The most recent ceasefire lapsed on the evening of 29 May. Discussions are reportedly ongoing in Jeddah, KSA to reach an agreement between the parties to extend the ceasefire. ([Source](#))
- The ceasefire brought some reduction in fighting. However, sporadic shooting continued to be reported in Khartoum. In the Darfur region, the situation continues to be tense and volatile following intense clashes in El Geneina (West Darfur) and Zalingei (Central Darfur) and renewed fighting in El Fasher (North Darfur). Other armed groups have also been involved in the clashes as the ongoing conflict has exacerbated pre-existing intercommunal tensions.
- In West Darfur, the civilian population is severely inhibited from moving around El Geneina town due to risks of targeting by snipers. In Central Darfur, the presence of foreign armed Arab militia is of grave concern. At least one project partner staff was killed as a result of the fighting in Zalingei.
- Due to the breakdown of rule of law and the security vacuum, widespread criminality continued to be reported in Khartoum, Darfur, and highways of El Obeid (North Kordofan).
- The security situation remains stable in other parts of Sudan including White Nile and the eastern states of Gedaref, Kassala, Blue Nile, and Red Sea.

Population movements

Movements outside of Sudan

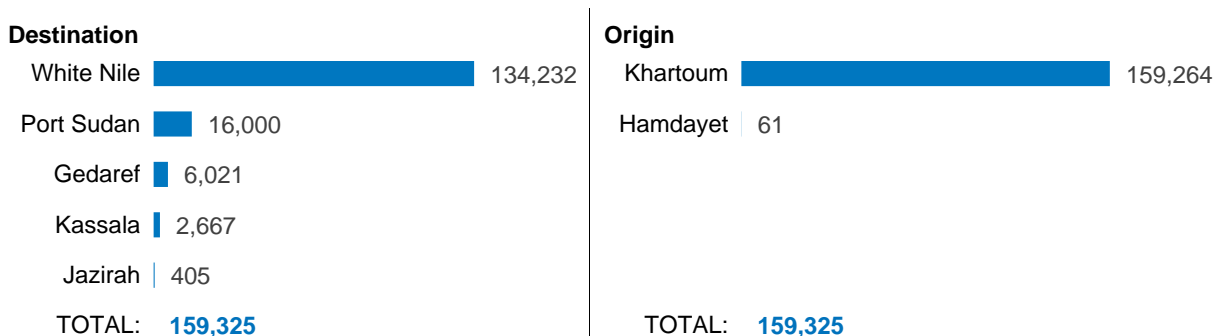
A total of **345,265** refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees have been reported



Movements within Sudan

IOM DTM reports **1,042,114** internally displaced persons in Sudan

In addition, a total of **159,325** refugees and asylum seekers have been secondarily displaced



**Internal movement towards other areas has been reported, which is yet to be confirmed and mapped.*

Operational context

- There are presently 21 international staff in Sudan, of which 10 are based in Port Sudan led by the Deputy Representative. Rotation of staff will start from 1 June to White Nile, Blue Nile, Kassala, Gedaref, and Red Sea states, and in additional locations where UNHCR is establishing presence.
- Efforts continue to conduct a scoping mission in Chad for the establishment of common UN cross-border operations to respond to the humanitarian situation in Darfur. The Principal Situation Coordinator for Darfur is leading from UNHCR side in engaging the OCHA-led mission.
- UNHCR is establishing a field unit in Dongola (Northern state) to respond to protection and assistance needs at the Wadi Halfa border crossing with Egypt, a hub in Wad Madani (Jazirah state) to respond to the outflows from Khartoum and act as a staging point for access to Khartoum when the conditions allow, and a presence in the proposed UN hub in Abeche, Chad to respond to the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

Protection situation

- Several **communication with communities** channels have been activated, including the UNHCR Help website (available in Arabic and English), Telegram, and hotlines that are functional but reliant on the connectivity situation in Sudan.
- In Darfur, the conflict has had a direct impact on camps and settlements including in South Darfur (in Beliel refugee settlement, 3 refugee youth were reportedly killed by heavy shelling and in Otash IDP camp, some 15 IDPs have been killed by unexploded ordnance) and in West Darfur (all 86 IDP gathering sites in El Geneina town have been razed). Increased criminality has also been reported affecting refugee, IDP, and host community areas.
- Multiple refugee and IDP settlements in Darfur are reporting extremely poor conditions including insufficient water supply, limited supplies of medical drugs, and lack of food assistance and NFIs. The lack of basic commodities has increased vulnerabilities leading to a rise in street children and reported increase in malnutrition and gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual violence (SV) cases. GBV and SV survivors are unable to access a full range of services. Additionally, in North Darfur, a measles outbreak has been reported, affecting 357 children from 7 settlements in Al Lait, out of which 30 children died due to lack of vaccination across the state.
- The situation in Khartoum continues to be dire and monitoring is severely limited due to lack of access by UNHCR and partners.
- In White Nile State, land and available space to accommodate refugees arriving in the camps are presenting major concerns. Camps are exceeding or are approaching the accommodation capacity. The establishment of a new settlement in Abu Dolou continues to be explored to reduce the strain in some of the camps.
- In Kassala and Gedaref, due to the heightened risks of smuggling and trafficking, community-based awareness raising efforts have been intensified through Telling the Real Story volunteers for widescale information dissemination on the dangers of smuggling and trafficking.
- A team from UNHCR fielded a mission to Wadi Halfa on the Sudanese side of the border with Egypt. Wadi Halfa remains a transit location with people in 29 different gathering centers and others hosted by families or communities in different outlying areas. Humanitarian assistance is urgently required to respond to needs for WASH, health, food, protection, and NFI support, as numbers of those seeking to cross into Egypt continue to grow.

Operational response

KEY FIGURES


12,700

Refugees, asylum seekers, and IDPs have received **NFI support** in Port Sudan, Gedaref, Kassala, White Nile, and North Darfur


39,861

Refugees and asylum seekers who fled Khartoum to **White Nile State** have been **verified**


441

Refugees and asylum seekers who fled Khartoum to the **eastern states** have been supported with **relocation** to the camps

In addition to activities being implemented targeting newly displaced persons as a result of the ongoing conflict, UNHCR continues to provide regular protection and assistance in line with the Multi-Year Strategy in Sudan, such as registration of new arrivals, distribution of personal hygiene kits and provision of lifesaving assistance and services to existing caseloads in areas such as White Nile, Blue Nile, Gedaref, and Kassala.

State	Operational response
White Nile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Verification led by UNHCR and the Commission for Refugees (COR) is ongoing to verify the numbers of refugees secondarily displaced from Khartoum. As of 25 May, a total of 7,108 households comprising 39,861 individuals have been verified in Um Sangour and Alagaya camps, out of which 24% were found to be already registered in Khartoum. A first batch of the assistance manifest covering 19,080 individuals has been shared with WFP and others for food and NFI assistance. A second batch will follow. ■ UNHCR led the conduct of two interagency needs assessments in the state covering refugees and IDPs. ■ Together with partners, UNHCR has been working to strengthen protection measures for refugees and IDPs in the state. 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. CRIs have been distributed to 536 new arrivals, 15 communal shelters have been built, and over 50 family tents have been pitched with 200 more deployed.
Gedaref	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Relocation continues from Wad Madani (Jazirah state) to Shagarab, Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah, and Um Gargour, and from Um Gulja to Um Gargour and Tunaydbah. As of 24 May, a total of 441 refugees and asylum seekers (251 households) have been relocated to the camps since the exercise began on 17 May. Additionally, on 28 May, UNHCR commenced the registration and verification of those who self-relocated from Khartoum to Tunaydbah directly. ■ The newly relocated have received core relief items, including blankets, sleeping mats and jerrycans and continues to receive hot meals. Moreover, they have been temporarily placed in communal spaces. ■ Over the weekend, heavy rainfall in parts of Gedaref led to destruction in Um Gargour, where the tents pitched by NRC for the relocated individuals,

latrines, and showers were destroyed. As tents were unable to withstand the rainfall, rakubas (emergency shelters) are urgently needed for reinforcement as well as gravel to elevate grounds to mitigate the effects of flooding. In Um Rakuba, the rains have also led to destruction of the registration center and impacted the storage location containing some foodstuff and NFIs. An assessment is being conducted to evaluate the extent of damage wrought by the rains.

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| Kassala | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ In the camps, provision of life-saving assistance including healthcare and WASH continues.■ UNHCR met with COR's registration team on 25 May and reached an agreement for COR to resume registration activities in Kassala from 28 May.■ On 20 May, Kassala received two convoys of a total of 56 Eritreans from Gedaref and Gergef. This group included 37 families (52 individuals) of new arrivals and one previously registered family (4 individuals). All the newly relocated have been accommodated at Shagarab reception center and are being provided with lifesaving assistance. |
| Blue Nile | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ On 24-25 May, UNHCR and ACTED provided NFI kits to 87 families of newly registered refugees in Camp 6. Since the start of the conflict in Sudan on 15 April 2023, 161 new arrivals from Ethiopia have arrived in Blue Nile including 140 relocated from Menza border point and 21 spontaneous arrivals.■ In the camp, UNHCR and partners continue to provide basic services, including water and healthcare and conduct activities at the child friendly space.■ In Kurmuk locality, UNHCR partner World Relief Sudan handed over sites to contractors to start the rehabilitation of refugee returnee transit center and construction of the humanitarian hub in Kurmuk. The situation at the border in Kurmuk is reportedly calm with no security issues reported. |
| Red Sea | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ In Port Sudan, the multisectoral rapid assessment initiated by UNHCR assessed 18 gathering points for displaced persons. Some 3,000 individuals were found, composed of Sudanese but also large numbers of Syrians and Yemenis, as well as refugees (mostly South Sudanese and Eritreans), and third country nationals. While some of them (e.g., Yemenis) are supported by their respective governments for basic needs and repatriation, others need urgent support in terms of food, water, and healthcare. Overall, the displaced populations feel safe in their respective shelters. However, a few protection incidents and risks were identified by the assessment team, including armed violence during relocation, sexual exploitation and abuse, abduction, robbery, and potential human trafficking.■ Previously, UNHCR in coordination with COR and the Humanitarian Aid Commission distributed NFI assistance to 762 households, of which 156 are refugee households, in the gathering sites in Port Sudan. |
| North Darfur | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ On 23 May, UNHCR, project partner Sudanese Organization for Relief & Recovery, the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) and the Wali's advisor for women and children visited El Fasher maternity hospital and distributed 21 personal hygiene kits (PHKs). Other agencies, including UNFPA, UNICEF and |
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their partners, also distributed PHKs at the hospital while WHO distributed drugs. The needs remain high amid reported increase in GBV and fistula cases.

- Further partnership agreements are being explored for protection monitoring, expanding access, and delivery of NFI support.

East Darfur

- UNHCR partners currently operational in the state are the SMoH, State Ministry of Education, Forests National Cooperation, and Mutawinat while World Vision International is partially operational. In the refugee settlements, essential services including health and WASH continue to be provided.
- UNHCR in coordination with World Vision continues to conduct remote protection monitoring through community-based protection networks (CBPNs) in areas within East Darfur.
- A total of 3,367 refugees have been received at the health facilities in Kario refugee camp (2185), El Nimir Refugee camp (783) and Abu Jabra refugee settlement (399) since the outbreak of conflict on 15 April.
- On 22 May, SMoH in coordination with UNHCR and UNICEF dispatched additional medical drugs to health facilities within the refugee hosting areas to respond to the limited supply of medical drugs in some health facilities.

Central Darfur

- UNHCR continues to conduct protection monitoring remotely and advocate with WFP for food distribution for the refugee camp once the situation allows. UNHCR is also advocating for restoration of security to enable the partner resume lifesaving activities in Um Shalaya camp.
- UNHCR is working with WFP to conduct food distribution for IDP camps in Zalingi, Mukjar and Golo from existing stocks.

West Darfur

- In order to support efforts to establish cross-border working modalities from East Chad, UNHCR has provided the Darfur Principal Situation Coordinator with a list of contacts for stakeholders that may be well positioned to influence provision of security guarantees for the Adre-El Geneina road.

South Darfur

- The project partner Water and Environmental Sanitation project reduced the water supply through all non-solarized systems due to lack of fuel in Beliel refugee camp.
- For the first time since the outbreak of conflict, UNHCR was able to conduct physical protection monitoring on 24-25 May and assessed civilians who are displaced within Nyala.

South Kordofan

- The health partner Al Manar Organization continues to provide healthcare services but at limited capacity due to the shortage of drugs and medical supplies.
- UNHCR is working with the partner International Aid Services to seek solutions to access fuel, the lack of which has affected the delivery of water services in Sirajiya and Dar Batti settlements.

Northern and Jazirah

- In response to the growing needs in Wadi Halfa and Medani, UNHCR is sending 800 NFI kits to Wadi Halfa and 1,500 NFI kits to Medani for distribution to the affected population.



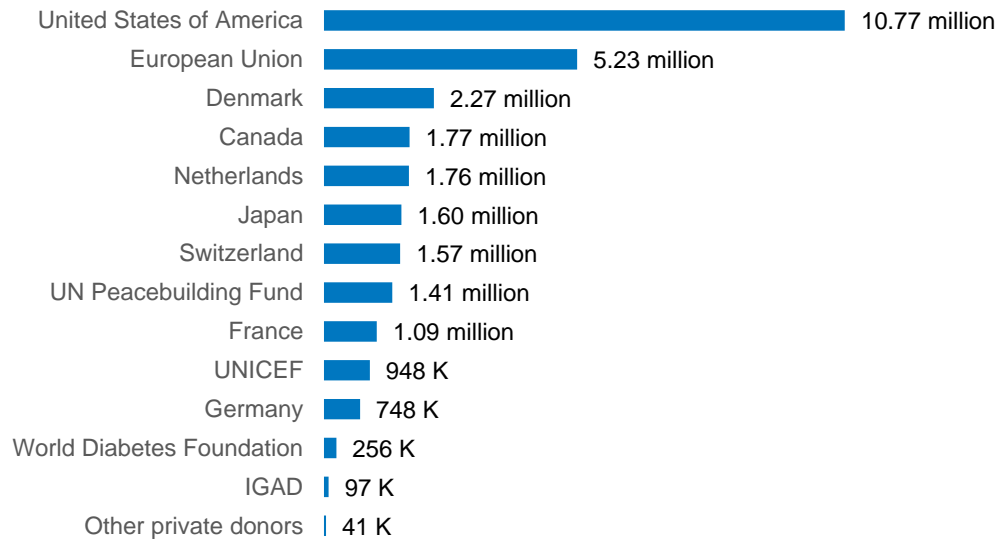
Distribution of core relief items to refugees and asylum seekers secondarily displaced in Um Sangour camp, White Nile State. Photo: UNHCR/Mosab Talballa

Challenges

- Two UNHCR offices have been totally looted (El Geneina, Nyala) and two others (Khartoum Representation and Field offices) were partially looted. One warehouse (El Fasher) was partially looted before the remaining stockpile was moved to a safer location with the support of local authorities.
- **Looting** continues to affect many partners particularly in Khartoum and Darfur. This has led to a lack of means of movement due to unavailability of assets, vehicles, and necessary equipment.
- Partners continue to report challenges in implementation due to the **lack of cash**, including to pay for staff, incentive workers, and refugee volunteers.
- The **shortage of fuel** is affecting multiple activities including health referrals (increased prices of transportation affecting the delivery of medical supplies) and WASH assistance (rationing of generator to power non-solarized water systems).
- **Internet connectivity** and **mobile network challenges** continue to affect communication among agencies, staff, and community-based protection networks. The situation is especially concerning in Darfur where large parts remain without connectivity.
- The UNHAS airbridge connecting Nairobi, Kenya and Port Sudan has witnessed challenges in recent trips, affecting staff rotation plans of many agencies including UNHCR.

Funding situation

Of UNHCR Sudan's total financial requirements of **USD 418.2 million** in 2023, a total of **52.6 million** has been funded as of **23 May 2023**, including earmarked contributions of **29.6 million**



Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions in 2023

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For more information, please contact **UNHCR Sudan External Relations**: sudkhextrel@unhcr.org

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