

## SUDAN SITUATION

25 April 2023



*A woman has found refuge in Chad following the outbreak of fighting in Sudan on 15 April 2023. © UNHCR/Aristophane Ngaroune*

## Operational Context

### Security and Political Developments

Since 15 April 2023, fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has continued in Khartoum, with clashes in Darfur and several other locations in Sudan. On 23 April, [OCHA reported](#) that at least 427 people have been killed and over 3,700 injured due to the recent conflict. There are also reports of several deaths and injuries among refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). At least five humanitarian workers have been killed since the start of the hostilities.

On 24 April, OCHA issued a [statement](#) saying they are deeply concerned about the humanitarian impact of the fighting. There are reports of acute shortages of food, water, medicines and fuel, and limited access to communications and electricity. The price of essential items – as well as transport – are skyrocketing. There have been additional reports of looting of humanitarian supplies and warehouses. OCHA and partners continue to call on the parties to respect humanitarian personnel and assets.

On 24 April, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken [announced](#) that the warring factions in Sudan had agreed to a ceasefire, “starting at midnight on 24 April, to last for 72 hours.”

## Staff Presence and Safety

When the crisis started, UNHCR had 481 staff members present in Sudan (366 national and 115 international staff), all of whom remain safe and accounted for.

On 24 April, the UN in Sudan (UNITAMS) issued a [Press Release](#) confirming the successful relocation of UN international staff and their dependents from Khartoum to Port Sudan, and international staff from El Geneina (West Darfur) and Zalengei (Central Darfur) to Chad. Other international staff from South Darfur have moved to South Sudan.

The UN Secretary-General ([UNSG](#)) welcomed the safe temporary relocation of the UN staff and reiterated his call on the parties to immediately cease hostilities and allow all civilians to evacuate from areas affected by the fighting.

All UNHCR international staff and dependents from those locations were part of the referenced evacuation movements. UNHCR is currently considering relocation and a reduced footprint for staff in other locations in Sudan.

UNHCR remains extremely concerned about our international staff remaining in Darfur, and our national staff remaining in affected areas throughout the country.

## Regional Overview

UNHCR is undertaking coordinated contingency planning for new arrivals to CAR, Chad, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt and Libya, working with host governments and partners to review and update contingency plans, undertake preparedness activities, and put in place border monitoring.

Scenarios for population movements include: 1) additional outflows of Sudanese refugees to neighbouring countries; 2) returns of refugees who were being hosted by Sudan, and 3) movements of other

refugees being hosted by Sudan to other neighbouring countries.

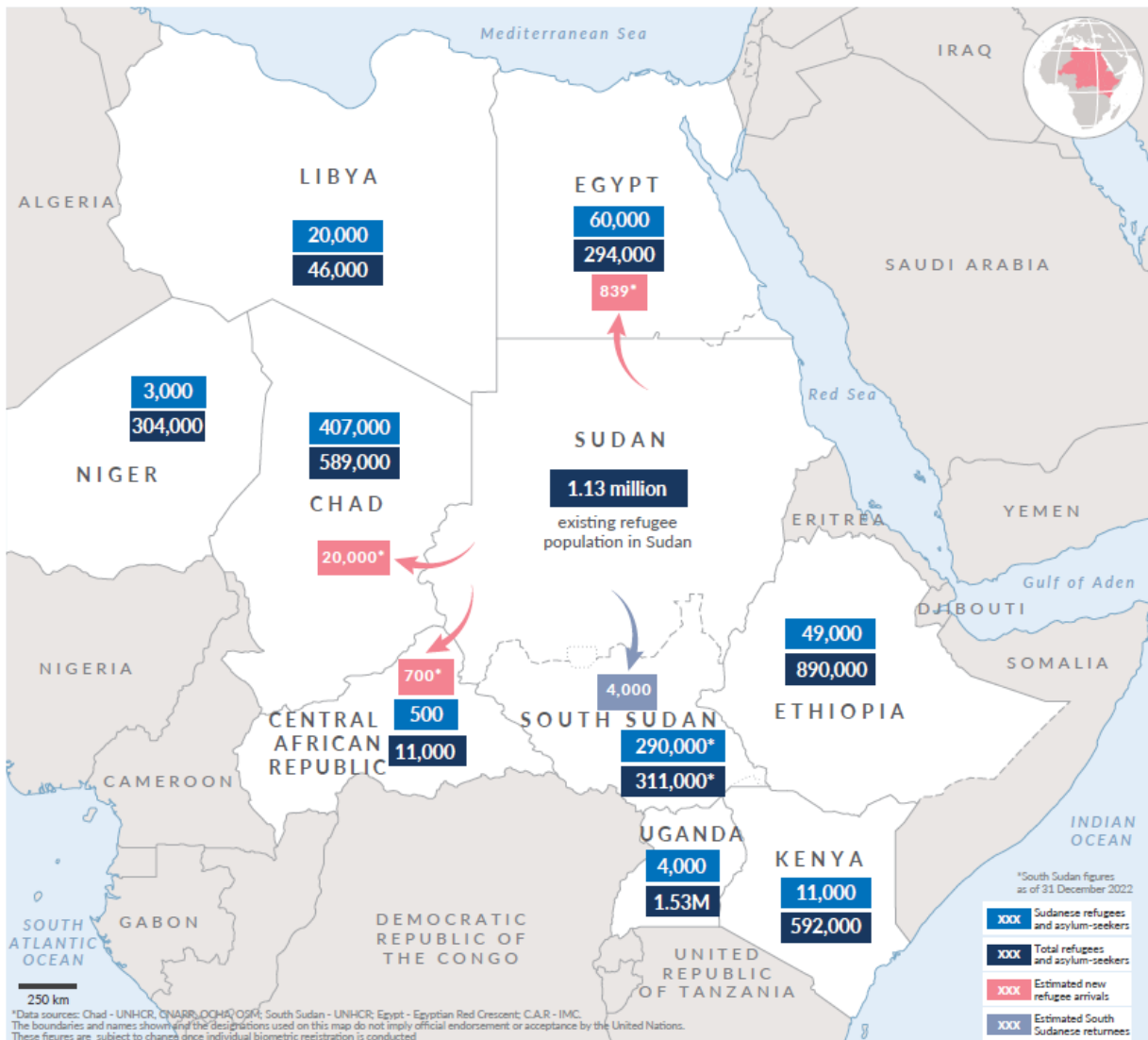


*Sudanese refugees shelter under a tree in a village 5km across the border in neighbouring Chad.  
© UNHCR/Aristophane Ngargoune.*

So far, the most significant cross-border movements in the region have been Sudanese fleeing to Chad, and South Sudanese refugees returning to South Sudan. While we have also received reports of people starting to arrive in Egypt, exact numbers are not available at this point.

UNHCR is working closely with partners and governments in the region to assess the needs of the newly arrived and to prepare a joint response.

## Sudan Situation Overview (as of 25 April 2023)



Creation date: 25 Apr 2023 Sources: UNHCR Feedback: dimahagl@unhcr.org

## Situation and Operational response

### SUDAN

Sudan has entered its second week of clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF), as intermittent fighting continued in Khartoum on 24 April for the tenth day.

Where the situation allows, remaining staff continue working with precautions including working from home and limiting movements. Remote protection monitoring continues wherever possible. Intermittent internet and cell service has made communication with staff and information gathering throughout Sudan difficult in the last several days.

UNHCR and WFP continue to explore modalities for food distribution to refugees where items have been prepositioned and partner staff are present.

Various reports of displacement have been received since the start of the fighting. Figures are indicative and not comprehensive as the situation remains fluid and continues to evolve.

In **Khartoum**, due to the security situation, there are no active UNHCR programme activities being undertaken, beyond minimal protection monitoring by phone through community outreach volunteers, and 24-hour operation of the refugee hotline. IOM DTM data reports displacements of around 3,500 – 4,000 individuals in different localities.

UNHCR partner the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) [reports](#) that among thousands of people who have moved from Khartoum to Wad Madani (Al Jazirah state, East-Central Sudan) seeking safety from the fighting, many are South Sudanese, Somali, Ethiopian and Yemeni refugees on the move. Local authorities and residents are trying to provide basic assistance.

In **White Nile**, government counterparts from the Commission for Refugees (COR) reported that over 30,000 refugees arrived in White Nile State from Khartoum. 11,000 of them reportedly went to the camps on the western side of the state; 12,000 to the camps on the eastern side; and 10,000 to Kosti and Rabak towns. UNHCR will work with local partners to assess the situation and possible response.

In **Blue Nile**, the office is looking into reports received from refugee community leaders across the border in Benishangul-Gumuz region of Ethiopia of up to 17,000 people attempting to cross into Ethiopia. However, Sudanese authorities in Kurmuk were not aware of the situation.

In **Gedaref**, many people who have arrived fleeing the fighting in Khartoum are staying with extended family.

In **Kassala**, refugee anxiety about the situation and continuity of services led to some refugees gathering outside UNHCR's office on 24 April seeking information and assurances.

In **North Kordofan**, according to IOM DTM data, displacement of around 7,500 – 8,000 individuals was recorded in El Obeid.

In **North Darfur**, displacements of around 16,000 – 17,000 individuals were reported in multiple locations.

In **West Darfur**, an estimated 20,000 people moved back from the Krinding IDP camps into gathering sites in El Geneina town.

In **South Darfur**, according to IOM, largescale displacements of around 30,000 – 37,000 individuals were recorded across Nyala town. Remote protection monitoring continues.

## CHAD

In Chad, UNHCR and its partners have deployed emergency teams along the eastern border with Sudan to respond to urgent needs for protection and humanitarian assistance. The Government of Chad and UNHCR have initiated pre-registration activities to identify new arrivals and assess their needs. Since the beginning of the fighting, at least 20,000 refugees have fled across the border into Chad. Many are located in villages only 5km away from Sudan, and more are expected to arrive in the coming days.

On 24 April, an inter-agency mission led by UNHCR in collaboration with the CNARR (*Commission Nationale d'accueil de Réinsertion des Réfugiés*) left to assess the situation of new Sudanese refugees reported in some villages of Sila province and identify needs for a rapid response.

On 25 April, an inter-agency emergency coordination support team including UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF traveled to Farchana to strengthen coordination of field assistance activities in the Adre area.

UNHCR is also bolstering supplies of core relief items, including sleeping mats, soap and cooking utensils, for 20,000 refugees. Refugees are sheltering under trees and lack clean water and food.

Planning is underway to relocate families to an existing refugee camp further from the border, while a new location is being identified to host additional arrivals. More than 400,000 Sudanese refugees are already hosted across 13 camps and among local communities in eastern Chad.

## **ETHIOPIA**

The Refugees Community Committee (RCC) members in Assosa have informed UNHCR that they anticipate a potential large-scale movement of people in Blue Nile State of Sudan towards Gesan and Kurmuk border crossing points. UNHCR and partners will conduct a border monitoring mission to assess the situation.

On 23 April, UNHCR and RRS undertook a joint assessment mission to Metema border crossing too establish if refugees or IDPs have already crossed into Ethiopia, map out and liaise with local partners and authorities, and assess existing facilities (health, water, schools) to increase preparedness in the case of an influx from Sudan.

## **SOUTH SUDAN**

In South Sudan, UNHCR and partners have been at border crossing points to monitor new arrivals and provide help. To date, UNHCR has recorded nearly 4,000 South Sudanese that have crossed from Sudan, mostly through the Renk border crossing point in Upper Nile State (from Khartoum and White Nile), as well as a few through border points in Northern Bhar-El-Ghazal (from Darfur). Other returnees have been observed but have not approached humanitarian partners for registration or assistance. It is also possible that more are arriving through informal border crossings.

Many of those who have arrived have had the means to pay for transportation from Khartoum and to continue their travel inside South Sudan. They have told our teams that larger numbers are trying to reach the border on foot. Figures of those on their way to South Sudan are difficult to confirm. However, there has been a daily increase in arrivals in Renk. It is likely that those arriving on foot will be more vulnerable and have greater needs than the early arrivals.

In Juba, UNHCR is leading the coordination for a potential refugee influx with South Sudan's CRA (Commission for Refugee Affairs). UNHCR is co-leading with IOM and RRC (Relief and Rehabilitation Commission) the response for returnees, while IOM is the lead agency for Third Country Nationals (TCN).

UNHCR is sending a site planner to Renk to start work on two reception centres, as well as buses and trucks to support RRC in transportation of the most vulnerable. UNHCR is sending 5,000 litres of fuel to Renk to help as the refugee operation is already affected by fuel shortages. UNHCR is also sending Core Relief Items (CRIs) to the border and discussing with other UN agencies and partners the development of an inter-agency basic assistance package for very vulnerable returnees.

Returnees will be encouraged to quickly move from the border areas. UNHCR will focus on cash support and transportation for vulnerable people. Phone stations will also be set up so that returnees can contact their families when they arrive.

New refugee arrivals will be directed to existing camps in Bunj/Maban or Jam-Jang. For any potential influx from Darfur, refugees are expected to settle in host communities.

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

On 23 April, UNHCR led a contingency planning exercise in Bangui with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), OCHA, UN agencies and other partner to discuss and plan the potential impact in CAR of the situation in Sudan.

On 24 April, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) reported that a group of 500 mostly women and children had crossed the border from Sudan into Am Dafock (65 km east of Birao). Local authorities informed that the group needed food, water and shelter.

As of 25 April, UNHCR partner International Medical Corps (IMC) reported that the number of new arrivals has increased to 700. UNHCR is supporting CNR to urgently deploy a team in Birao and is planning an Inter-Agency mission to assess the needs.

## EGYPT

UNHCR has received reports of people starting to arrive in Egypt. However, exact numbers are not available at this point. According to the latest figures published by the Egyptian Red Crescent, 1253 persons, including 839 non-Egyptian nationals, have been assisted at the border.

The Government of Egypt has confirmed that borders are open to those seeking to cross from Sudan. The main entry point is a regular busy border crossing, and UNHCR and partners are working to verify who is crossing due to the fighting in Sudan versus other types of more 'regular' crossings.

UNHCR is also in discussions with the Sudanese community in Egypt to get a better sense of new arrivals in the community and to identify support needs. UNHCR is working on a joint analysis of the situation led by the Protection Working Group, by verifying and triangulating information, to give a holistic picture of the situation. A coordinated and systematized approach across UN/ NGOs to monitor developments is being set in place.

## LIBYA

Based on information received from authorities, no significant increase of entries from Sudan have been observed recently.

## External Engagement

- The UNHCR Representatives in Chad and South Sudan held a press briefing in Geneva on 25 April on the new arrivals and contingency planning in the countries. UNHCR is scaling up to assist people seeking safety in countries neighbouring Sudan, where the fighting looks set to trigger further displacement both within and outside the country. UNHCR issued a briefing note following the event at the Palais des Nations: [\*UNHCR mobilizes to help people fleeing Sudan for neighbouring countries.\*](#)
- UNHCR [Press Release](#) issued on 20 April regarding the new arrivals into Chad.
- UNHCR [Press Release](#) issued on 17 April urging neighboring countries to keep borders open for those who may be in need of international protection.

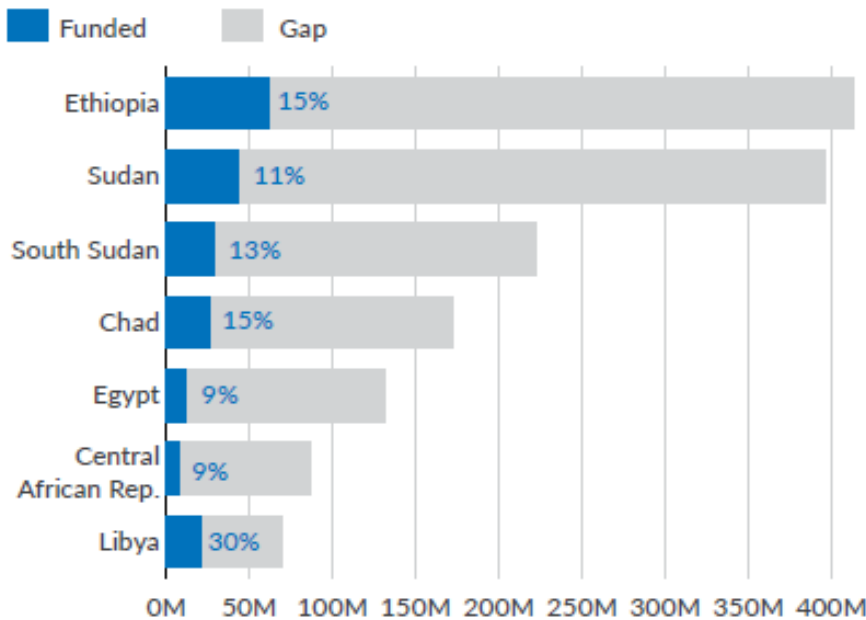
## Advocacy Messages

- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, joins the UN Secretary-General in condemning the outbreak of fighting in Sudan. We are deeply concerned about the safety and security of civilians in the areas affected by the fighting, including refugees and internally displaced people. We echo calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities, restore calm and to begin a dialogue to resolve the crisis.
- This escalation in violence is hindering the humanitarian response to those in need across the country. We call for all parties to protect civilians, including refugees and displaced people, and to respect the safety of humanitarian staff so that critical aid can be delivered.
- UNHCR teams have observed new refugee arrivals from Sudan into Chad and returning South Sudanese to South Sudan. UNHCR is working closely with the governments in neighbouring countries and partners to assess their needs and prepare a joint response.
- People trying to flee and access assistance within or outside the country should be able to do so safely.

- We thank neighbouring countries for continuing to keep their borders open for those fleeing Sudan, seeking international protection or returning to their countries of origin.
- All UNHCR operations in Sudan’s neighbouring countries impacted by this new emergency already have existing large refugee and IDP populations are also severely underfunded. Urgent support is needed to ensure timely assistance is provided to those fleeing hostilities.

## UNHCR Budget and Funding

### Budget requirements and funding for Sudan and surrounding countries | in million US\$



*Note: Budget requirements associated with this new crisis are still being determined. UNHCR’s operations in Sudan and neighboring countries are already severely underfunded as indicated above.*

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