

SUDAN SITUATION

9 May 2023



Registration and verification of refugees and asylum-seekers arriving from Khartoum to Um Gulja in Gedaref, Sudan.
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Operational Context

Clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have entered a fourth week and continued for the 24th consecutive day on 8 May.

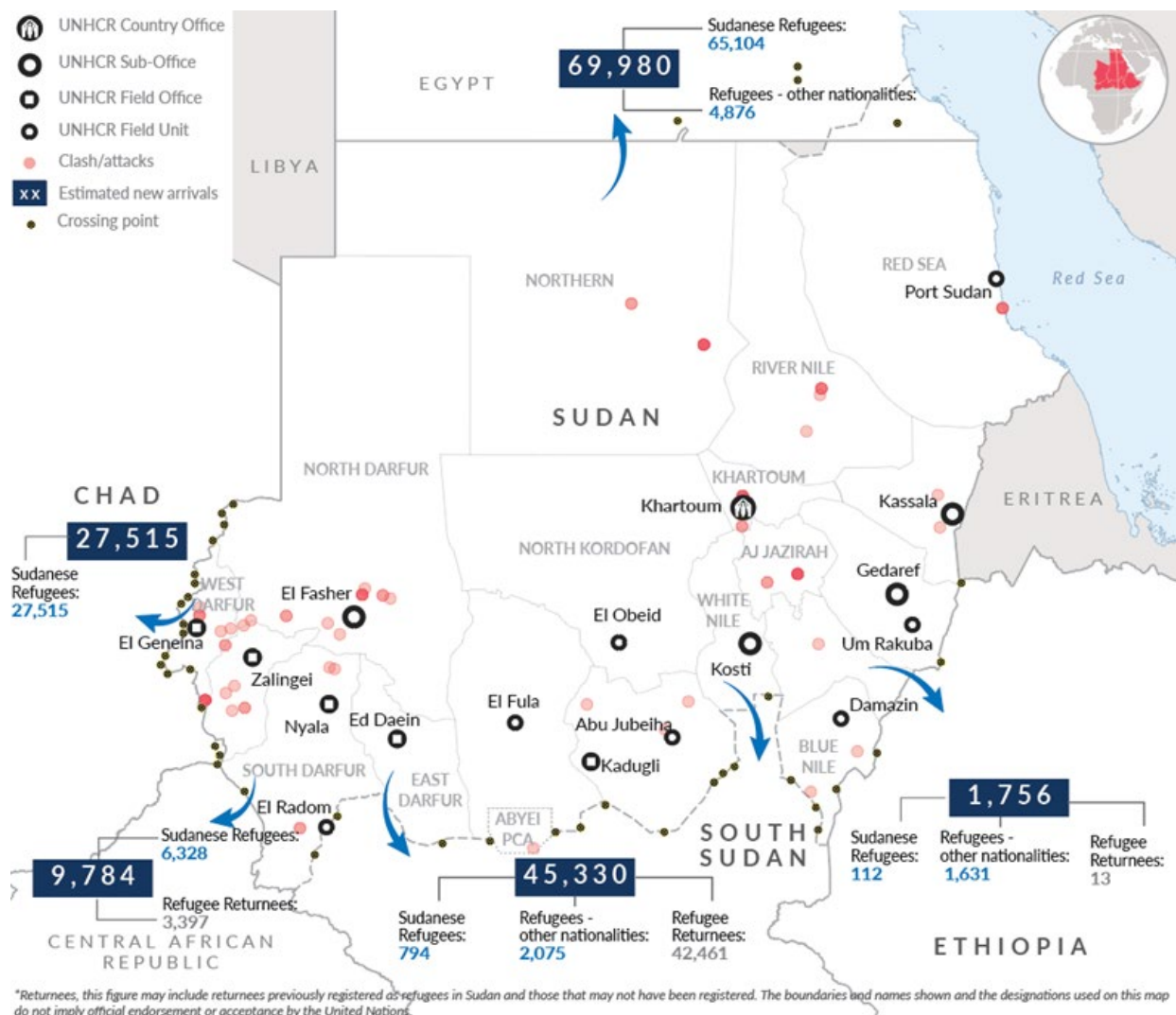
UN Secretary-General António Guterres [has strongly condemned](#) the looting of the World Food Programme's (WFP) main offices in Khartoum over the weekend, describing it as a "violation" of humanitarian facilities. In a statement issued by his Spokesperson, he noted that "most, if not all, United Nations agencies and our humanitarian partners, have been impacted by large-scale looting", since the military power struggle between the national army and rival RSF militia began. [Speaking to journalists](#) at the daily UN briefing on Monday, Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq, said that it was mainly office and computer equipment that had been stolen at the weekend, by so far unidentified looters.

On 7 May, the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, made a [statement](#), in which he said he is closely following the humanitarian ceasefire talks in Jeddah between the representatives of SAF and RSF. He urged the two sides to seize the opportunity of the face-to-face talks to silence the guns.

“Health facilities and hospitals should be safe havens in times of crisis,” the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) said on 6 May, condemning an attack on a hospital in Khartoum. UNFPA Regional Director Laila Baker [said](#) pregnant women in capital city are facing perilous conditions. “We are acutely concerned,” she said. “There is no way we can monitor them, there is no access to safe delivery services, no way to ensure even meagre communication.

Regional Overview

- 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 Comprehensive Overview of Response to Emergencies (CORE) map of population movement from Sudan: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/100372>
- The UNHCR [HELP site for refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan](#) provides information to individuals seeking information or support inside Sudan and includes now an [Arabic version](#).



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

The security situation remains fluid and unpredictable. The current ceasefire has not held as clashes continued to be reported in Khartoum, Bahri (Khartoum North) and Omdurman.

Representatives of SAF and RSF met on 6 May in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia for “pre-negotiation talks” aimed at reducing the levels of tension in Sudan, brokered by Saudi Arabia and the United States.

The Sudanese Doctors’ Trade Union reported that 19 hospitals have been damaged, 19 hospitals evacuated, and 61 others put out of service in Khartoum due to the ongoing fighting. UNICEF reported that 1 million polio vaccines have been lost because of looting.

Connectivity across the country continues to be widely affected. Mobile operator MTN Sudan announced the halt of services as it could not supply its main switch sites due to power outages and lack of fuel in Khartoum. Banditry, criminality, and illegal checkpoints are also increasingly reported in different locations, particularly along the highways into/out of El Obeid (North Kordofan).

General updates

UNHCR and IOM have temporarily paused case processing and resettlement departures as well as support for family reunification and sponsorship programs for admission to third countries due to the prevailing security situation. Nevertheless, UNHCR is following up on these cases to seek a way forward with the governments in the receiving countries.

Loss of mobile connectivity is hampering remote protection monitoring being conducted by community-based protection networks (CBPN) in many areas including the Darfur and Kordofan states.

Movement of core relief items in the country remains challenging due to the security situation, shortage of fuel, which is forcing transport suppliers to hike their rates, and challenges with customs clearance for items at the port.

Updates by location

In **Port Sudan**, the distribution of non-food items (NFI) kits to refugees who have relocated to Port Sudan commenced on 7 May. So far, 271 families have received NFI kits, with distribution to continue in the coming days in coordination with the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and Commission for Refugees (COR).

In **Khartoum**, communication with refugee volunteers continues. Some have reportedly reached Port Sudan (Syrians) and the eastern states (Eritreans and Ethiopians). The South Sudanese refugee community reports urgent need of food and expressed their desire to be included in food assistance as Khartoum has been previously exempted from WFP’s food distribution.

In **Kassala**, the situation is calm but unpredictable, with growing concerns about the rising cost of living and limited access to economic activities.

WFP has resumed food distribution in Kassala state including the refugee camps.

Schools have re-opened on 7 May and learning activities are being facilitated in all refugee schools. However, only half of the learners have paid the fee for the final examination taking place on 13 May. The current economic hardship, worsened by the ongoing conflict, will further affect the ability of vulnerable families to support their children’s education. UNHCR and Ministry of Education are exploring options for supporting candidates who are unable to pay the fees. Moreover, teachers are yet to receive their salaries for the month of April due to the country-wide challenge in accessing cash. There are ongoing efforts to resolve this challenge with the bank.

Based on the results of a needs assessment, UNHCR has begun planning for the allocation of 72 newly constructed tukuls at Shagarab 3 camp, to decongest the reception centre in Shagarab camp and provide dignified shelter to new arrivals and those who have relocated to the camps. The handover of the tukuls to the selected households is expected to start on 8 May in coordination with COR and UNHCR's shelter partner, Welthungerhilfe.

UNHCR's health partner, ALIGHT, has indicated a significant increase in the number of out-patient consultations at its primary healthcare facilities. As a result, the stocks of medicines and medical supplies are fast depleting at these facilities. The delays in the supply of some of the drug stocks and supplies remain a key challenge. A detailed trend analysis is being conducted and will be shared.

In **Gedaref**, the general security situation remains calm. UNHCR, observed that the government has deployed the police special forces to guard key government offices and assets in what is considered a precautionary measure. IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers continue to arrive in Gedaref in large numbers after having self-relocated from Khartoum and other unsafe areas. UNHCR is coordinating with implementing and operational partners present in the state to respond to the influx.

In Um Gulja, a previous refugee camp in Gedaref state that had been closed some 20 years ago, more refugees and asylum seekers arrived over the weekend from Khartoum and other areas, bringing the total number to over 2,600 individuals according to COR. UNHCR and COR continue to register the newly arrived people. To increase site security, the Gedaref police have scaled up their presence in this location to reduce the risk of smuggling and trafficking of people. At the same time, UNHCR's partner for legal aid, Mutawinat, has conducted awareness-raising sessions and focus group discussion (FGDs) with refugees and asylum seekers, urging them to avoid moving in and out of Um Gulja without the permission of local authorities.

COR reported to UNHCR that the number of newly arrived refugees and asylum-seekers has now reached between 5,000 to 6,000 in neighbouring Al Jazirah state. The Assistant Commissioner for Refugees in Gedaref established a high committee for the emergency to look into the relocation of refugees from Medani in Al Jazirah state, as well as those at Um Gulja to various refugees camps in the east according to nationality.

In Village 8, no new arrivals from Ethiopia and no return movements have been observed and the border remains closed on both sides.

UNHCR has received reports that large numbers of people (an estimated 600 to 700), including Sudanese, Ethiopians and Eritreans are crossing the border at Gallabat in Sudan into Metema, Ethiopia daily. The Ethiopians belong to a variety of ethnic groups who were living in Khartoum and are now fleeing the conflict. UNHCR, in coordination with COR, undertook a border monitoring mission on 8 May to assess the situation at Gallabat border crossing point and verify figures from immigration authorities on the number of people crossing to Ethiopia.

In **Blue Nile**, UNHCR teams conducted a mission to Camp 6 to assess the situation there as well as identify and respond to urgent protection and assistance needs. The main concern raised by the displaced population is lack of food as WFP distribution has not yet recommenced in the state.

Partner ACTED distributed dignity kits to an additional 800 refugee women and girls. As part of its monitoring activities, UNHCR's legal aid partner, Mutawinat, visited the courts and prison in Rusayris locality, to identify and support refugees or other displaced persons arrested and/or detained in the last three weeks.

UNHCR continues to maintain regular communication with authorities at Kurmuk border crossing point to monitor the movement of people from Sudan to Ethiopia. Generally, as of last week, the movement of Sudanese through Kurmuk border is small (2-3 persons per day) and there are no reported issues in crossing the border. Roads remain accessible in the absence of heavy rains.

In **White Nile**, UNHCR staff are in the camps to begin the biometric verification process for new arrivals from Khartoum as COR continues to report high numbers of up to 75,000 arrivals in the camps.

An interagency rapid needs assessment for IDPs under the leadership of the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) is ongoing. Partners are conducting neighborhood visits with rough estimate of 300 households that have been displaced so far, a number that is yet to be confirmed.

Locality administration from Renk, South Sudan are expected to conduct a field visit to meet counterparts from Aj Jabalain authorities in White Nile with a view of understanding the trend of refugee movements from Sudan to South Sudan.

UNHCR maintains regular contact with the locality administration at the Joda border crossing point into South Sudan. The majority of the population returning to South Sudan is Dinka and Shilluk. The majority of those arriving in camps are Nuer with reports of some 30,000-35,000 self-relocating to Um Sangour camp. Verification exercises will be conducted to verify these figures.

In **North Kordofan**, intercommunal clashes were reported between the Arab tribes of Shanabla and Hawazma Dar Ujoul along El Obeid-Dilling highway.

In **South Darfur**, the main challenge in the refugee settlements is inadequate food noting that no food distribution is expected in May. It is still unknown whether this could trigger movement out of the refugee settlements. National organizations have started an awareness campaign regarding unexploded ordnance (UXOs) following incidents reported in Nyala. The organizations are utilizing mosques as a platform to disseminate information and reach a wider population.

Remote protection monitoring continues for all locations around Nyala, where the situation remains calm, and some partners continue to conduct interventions. In Kalma IDP camp, all 6 primary healthcare clinics stopped operating due to shortage of medical supplies and drugs. UNHCR is also verifying information about reported incidents of gender-based violence against civilians in Dereije IDP camp.

In **West Darfur**, the situation is calm but unpredictable. Heavy shooting was reported on 3 May. Attempted looting of the Bank of Khartoum branch was averted. Community youth report 300+ casualties from the intense fighting in previous weeks, with two hospitals in Jamarek and Madares areas treating 450 patients. The border at Adre cannot be monitored at present since the Community--Based Protection Network (CBPN) in Adikong has been displaced. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) was reportedly able to evacuate 307 of the wounded from El Geneina to Chad and Nyala, treat 347 injured, and retrieve 19 bodies as a result of the fierce fighting that erupted between the Arab and Masalit in previous weeks. SRCS is providing medicine from the limited stocks in the SRCS branch to El Geneina, Al-Naseem, and Medical Corps hospitals. In El Geneina, there is an acute shortage of food, water, and essential medicine.

In **North Darfur**, the state continues to be split into different areas of control by the different armed groups. The situation in El Fasher remains calm but there are checkpoints to enter/exit one control area from another. UNHCR has been able to successfully move most items from the El Fasher warehouse to a secured warehouse in the Wali's compound. At the request of the Humanitarian Aid Commission and in coordination with the State Ministry of Health, UNHCR distributed 5 generators, tents, and other NFIs to health facilities.

The generators were distributed to the El Fasher maternity hospital and health centers in Abu Shouk, Abdelsalam, Haj Awad Alla, and Babiker Nihar. WFP reports that it will be able to distribute 2 months' worth of cereal (food assistance) to 3 IDP camps (Abu Shouk, Al Salam, and Zamzam) from stocks that were delivered prior to the outbreak of conflict. Line ministries are supporting the distribution exercise including identification of beneficiaries as WFP has faced challenges in accessing its own beneficiary lists.

SOUTH SUDAN

The cumulative number of arrivals recorded as of 8 May increased to 7,696 households consisting of 45,890 individuals, with average daily arrivals still around 2,500-3,000 per day.

MABAN (UPPER NILE)

Renk

New arrivals: On 8 May, 274 households/1,298 individuals (1,187 South Sudanese, 55 Sudanese, 4 Kenyans, 1 Eritrean, 48 Ugandans, 3 Rwandans) arrived at the Joda border point and were registered by UNHCR and its partner, Humanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC). Cumulatively, 39,961 individuals have arrived and

been recorded at the Joda border point. Facilitation of the new arrivals from the border to the Transit Centre remained a challenge in recent days as the only UNHCR bus and truck on the ground are currently being used to transport refugees to the camps in Maban.

Transit Centre: On 8 May, 109 households/862 individuals were received at the Transit Centre in Renk. Approximately 4-5,000 vulnerable individuals are currently staying at the Transit Centre, which a total estimated 20,000 returnees are in Renk town.

Asylum-Seekers and Refugees: UNHCR conducted an exercise at the Transit Centre to register asylum-seekers and refugees ready to go to the refugee camps in Maban. As of 8 May, 311 households/516 individuals have been registered at the Transit Centre. Of these, 289 households/ 445 individuals expressed their willingness to go to Maban.

Paloich

Despite efforts by the government to address the situation, the presence of returnees, refugees and asylum seekers camped at the privately owned airstrip in Paloich seeking flights to various locations remains challenging with unverified reports of people dying of hunger. UNHCR is organizing a mission this week to conduct counselling on movement options and assess whether some food, shelter and other assistance can be provided.

MALAKAL (UPPER NILE)

On 8 May, 22 households/158 individuals arrived at Manyo, Melut, and Kodok counties; all were returning to their home areas.

BENTIU (UNITY)

On 8 May, UNHCR and its partner, Hope Restoration South Sudan recorded the arrival of 15 households/157 individuals to Leer, Mayiandit and Payinjiar counties. The families reported that they experienced delays due to several checkpoints along the way and it took them three days to arrive. The families mentioned Leer, Mayiandit and Payinjiar counties as their destinations and expressed their joy for making it back home safely.

NORTHERN BAHR EL GHAZAL

Returnees arriving at the borders reported attacks and looting of belongings and cash within Sudan on their way to South Sudan. UNHCR's partner, HCO, reported that returnees were looted at Hijairat on their way to Amieth. Many of them arrived only with the clothes they were wearing. As such, many returnees are unable to afford transport fare for onward movement from the Amieth border point.

On 8 May, 20 households / 241 individuals (110 male, 131 female) arrived at as follows:

- Majokyithio: 7 households / 103 individual returnees (35 male, 68 female) arrived at Majokyithio in Aweil East from Merem and Muglad. They reported robbery of personal belongings and cash on their way to South Sudan. They also reported high transportation fare to South Sudan. They are from Aweil, Wunrok, and Turalei – their final destinations.
- Gokmachar-Kiir Adem: 13 households / 138 individuals returnees (75 male, 63 female) arrived at Gokmachar-Kiir Adem border – Aweil North from Fashir, Nhiala, costi, Leya. They reported that the main challenge on their way to South Sudan was transportation fare and lack of food. They reported to be from Wanyjok, Wunrok, Aweil Gokmachar, Namlel – their final destinations.

WESTERN BAHR EL GHAZAL

Returnees in Raja, Western Bahr el Ghazal State also reported theft and harassment along the route to South Sudan. A UNHCR partner reported that a lorry carrying returnees was looted by unknown armed men in a place called Asalaya within Sudan near the border of Timsah. The returnees were detained in the bush for two days. The group is expected to arrive at Raja on 9 May.

On 8 May, the Wau field office received information about the arrival of 153 evacuees/returnees by cargo flight from Paloich in Upper Nile. The evacuees included returnees from Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Central Equatoria, and Warrap states. The Government organized transportation from Wau to the various state capitals. Additional 4 -5 flights are expected in the coming days.

One household of five individuals arrived at Boro Medina border point in Raja from Alradom in Darfur. They reported scarcity of means of transport as a major challenge for returnees.

ABYEI Administrative Area

Nine households/49 individual returnees (20 male, 29 female) arrived at the Amieth border point from Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahari. They reported looting on their way. The returnees are from Abyei but Wau is their intended destination.

CHAD

Since the beginning of the crisis, at least 30,000 refugees have arrived from Sudan, while as of 8 May some 27,500 have been verified.

A survey carried out in Tine on 5 May found that the majority of the refugees wishes to settle in Oure Cassoni camp. For those who wish to relocate, Iridimi camp is also being considered.

Protection and border monitoring

On 4 May a total of 219 people participated in sensitization sessions on gender-based violence and related reporting mechanisms. Additional sessions on child protection and community-based protection mechanisms reached a total of 474 people in Ouddai.

Protection monitoring and data collection continues through the interagency protection monitoring system "Project 21." As of 4 May, data had been collected from 291 households in the villages of Hayal Salam, Koufroun, Labane Dafak, Dizé Berté, Midjiguita, and Goungour, in Ouaddai province. Some of the initial results include:

- 91% of households encountered no difficulties in accessing the country of asylum;
- 84% indicate no specific protection risks, while 12% report physical aggressions;
- 45% have family members remaining in Sudan who wish to join them;
- 53% of pre-registered arrivals are school aged children;
- 38% have no ID documents;
- 5% indicate GBV risk for women and girls;
- 53% do not intend to return to Sudan in the next months even if the situation improves.

Registration

By 7 May the total number of refugees counted in Wadi Fira, Tine and Sila increased to 26,249, of whom 11,226, refugees (3,283 households) were pre-registered.

Core Relief Items (CRIs):

Nearly 1,900 households received UNHCR kits, consisting of tarpaulins, soap, and jerrycans at the Koufroune, Midjiguita, and Goungour sites between 4 and 5 May. So far, over 5,000 refugee households have received CRIs distributed by UNHCR and UNICEF.

Food Distribution

As of 7 May, a total of 16,179 newly arrived refugees have received food assistance from WFP, including 13,880 people in the Ouaddai province.

On 5 May, food distribution started in in the Sila province and reached 1,299 people, including 127 children and 61 pregnant and lactating women.

Health

Premiere Urgence (PU), IRC and MSF continue to provide health assistance. As of 8 May, 5,412 medical consultations were conducted and acute respiratory infections (ARI) were found to be the most prevalent disease (858 cases), followed by malaria (425 cases) and watery diarrhoea (172 cases). Over 1,520 children aged between 6 and 59 months were screened and 19 per cent of them were found to be acutely malnourished.

WASH

Activities to enhance access to water and sanitation continue:

- UNHCR facilitated the distribution of 3,000 liters of water at the Dize Berte site.
- Monitoring of three water tanks with a capacity of 5,000 litres, used for storage and distribution, takes place at Koufroun and Midjguilta sites.
- Identification of a site for the micro-drilling in the wadi serving as a source of water for Dize Berte is ongoing.
- Six emergency latrines provided by Care International are now operational Koufroune and Midjguilta sites.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Current situation

Since clashes broke out in Sudan on 15 April 2023, over 6,300 Sudanese refugees and about 3,500 Central African refugees who lived in Sudan have arrived in Am-Dafock, a small village in the Vakaga Prefecture bordering Sudan.

Registration

So far 6,328 refugees have been registered (1,684 households), 98 per cent of which are women and children. The UNHCR team now in Am-Dafock is gathering further information on the profile of the population.

Based on the multi-sector rapid assessment, access to food was the main need identified. In relation to gender-based violence, 48 per cent of those interviewed consider GBV as a risk for young women under 18 years of age. As part of the assessment several persons with specific needs were identified, including pregnant or lactating women, women at risk, person with disabilities, and older persons at risk.

Response

UNHCR continues to advocate for prima facie recognition for refugees arriving from Sudan.

As the Government highlighted the need to relocate refugees to safer areas, further away from the border in Am-Dafock, assessments of potential locations suggested by the authorities are underway by UNHCR and partners. Concerns related to potential flooding and security are being taken into consideration. UNHCR continues to advocate for alternatives to camps and inclusion.

Following previous airlifts, on 7 May a convoy carrying food and core relief items (dignity and hygiene kits, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, shelter items) left Birao to Am-Dafock for immediate distribution. Lack of fuel and the poor road conditions posed some challenges. The convoy was escorted by MINUSCA.

While UNHCR is looking to establish a stronger presence in Birao, and is currently looking for office space, emergency teams have been deployed and a total of seven UNHCR staff and three CNR staff are currently in Am-Dafock and Birao. A UNHCR GBV and a Registration officer also travelled to the arrival areas to support registration and start protection dialogue with communities, focusing on child protection and prevention of gender-based violence. Registration is also key to enable the upcoming food distribution.

Identification of partners for protection and other sectoral activities to support refugees and host communities in Am-Dafock is ongoing.

ETHIOPIA

Between 21 April and 8 May, according to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), more than 16,500 people (60+ nationalities) have arrived in Metema. The largest group are Ethiopian nationals (45%), followed by Sudanese (17%), Eritreans (11%) and Turks (9%).

As of 8 May, 2,592 people (77% Eritreans, 10 per cent Sudanese, and 11 per cent South Sudanese) have sought international protection including 26 Ethiopian refugees returning from Sudan. Of these, 1,953 crossed through Metema, 441 entered via the Kurmuk border point in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region. Both the Metema and Kurmuk crossing points remain open, where screening by RRS is ongoing, with the support of UNHCR.

For the first time, new arrivals were also reported at the Pagak/Bubieyr border crossing in the Gambella region. The 198 South Sudanese refugees who had previously been hosted in Sudan have been accommodated in Nguenyiel and Tierkidi camps.

Protection

In Metema, nine Persons with Special Needs (PSNs), including pregnant women, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), and people with chronic diseases, were identified, bringing the total number of PSNs identified there to 91 individuals. UNHCR and partner Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDo) will be following up on the individual cases that need urgent support.

Some 150 individuals were received by the protection team in Metema on 8 May, including 34 asylum-seekers and refugees who were seeking information and were referred to the UNHCR/RRS desk for registration.

The UNHCR Ethiopia Deputy Representative visited Metema, to review the work of the registration and protection desks, the provision of assistance, as well as visiting the transit center under preparation and the two proposed refugee sites for reception/accommodation.

Health response

In Metema, a WHO team visited the entry point on 6 May and the transit/reception site to discuss identified gaps and the support which they could provide. WHO indicated that medical supplies would be delivered to Metema. The main challenges in the provision of health services in Metema include delays in the granting of permits to patients with chronic diseases to travel to referral locations. Other challenges include lack of support for lactating mothers supplementary feeding for babies, shortage of ambulances, and lack of adequate operating space for the Emergency Medical Team deployed by the Ministry of Health.

On 5 May, UNHCR facilitated the transportation of seven Eritrean refugees with serious health conditions to the Gende Wuha Primary Hospital.

Food and Core Relief Items (CRI)

In Metema, UNHCR partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) has been distributing cooked meals for verified refugees and asylum seekers since 4 May, providing three hot meals to an average of 400 people per day. UNHCR's partner Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC) provided 74 lactating mothers with CRI kits, containing under wear, laundry soap and reusable diapers for children. A formal request has been made by UNHCR to all partners to provide any CRI in their stocks that would help to assist the new arrivals.

Shelter and WASH

In Metema, the construction of eight (out of 25) communal emergency shelters at the transit centre was completed. The rest are expected to be completed in two weeks' time. The 2.1 hectares centre will have the capacity to accommodate 1,200-1,500 individuals in 30 partitioned communal hangars, with communal kitchens and WASH facilities. In addition, four communal hangars were completed at the same site.

RRS, UNHCR and the Disaster Risk Management Office (DRMO) visited the two other sites in Metema to determine their suitability to accommodate additional refugees.

Deficient internet connectivity and power cuts remain among the key challenges in Metema.

Kurmuk: The WASH, Health and Nutrition technical teams have mobilized internal resources and are at the site in Kurmuk daily, working on the renovation and maintenance of the transit site.

The shelter team has visited three sites identified by RRS in Tsose camp (Benishangul-Gumuz region) and will soon start with partner Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) the construction of hangars to temporarily accommodate the new arrivals.

EGYPT

As of 8 May, based on information from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), 69,980 individuals, including 65,104 Sudanese and 4,876 third-country nationals have crossed into Egypt from Sudan.

MFA has again reiterated its commitment to keeping the border open and not to implement an encampment policy, also highlighting the support required for host communities across Egypt who are receiving the large number of recent arrivals. The MFA has also highlighted the need to support the main hospital in Aswan where urgent medical referrals are directed to from the border.

Border mission to Qustul

On 8 May, a UNHCR-led mission comprised of UN agencies IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and Egyptian MFA, traveled to the Qustul border crossing. The visit included two high-level meetings with the Government and UN Representatives. It also allowed UNHCR to survey the health capacity and priority needs at the border, to interview newly arrived Sudanese and to meet with staff from the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) through whom UN assistance has been delivered to date. Some of the main conclusions from the mission were as follows:

Port: The Government of Egypt is planning to schedule two more ferries and install river lighting given the increased pressures. It has already increased staffing to operate around the clock. The shortage of ferries between 17:00 and 05:00 has resulted in large numbers of new arrivals from Sudan including women and children having to stay the night at Qustul, which the expanded ferry schedule will help to address.

No Man's Land: People in the "no-man's land" between Sudan and Egypt at the Qustul border crossing point remain in urgent need of water, food, and toilets despite some assistance and triage of health cases being delivered from the Egyptian side. Evacuation of third country nationals (TCNs) is being coordinated with relevant embassies, including for the issuance of travel documents. TCNs are being brought to the Egyptian side through the no-man's land.

Wadi Halfa: The Egyptian Consulate in Wadi Halfa is overwhelmed, given that all boys and men from 16 to 50 years of age require an entry visa, which currently takes 10-25 days, thus resulting in long waiting lines. The Governor of Wadi Halfa is providing temporary shelter for the group, for which the needs are great, including for shelter, food, and medical supplies. The Governor has reportedly requested the Government to expedite medical cases, including cases wounded from the fighting, for visa processing.

Protection

ERC staff generally noted some 4,700-4,800 new arrivals per day at the peak of last week. However, the situation has slowed down since 3 May.

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

More female staff are needed at the border crossings to assist with identification of risks faced by women and girls.

New arrivals indicated their journey took between 1-15 days. The main reason for longer journeys was due to issuance of visa for boys and men at Wadi Halfa. All new arrivals reported that the conditions at the Egyptian Consulate at Wadi Halfa are very difficult, including very challenging and long processing times. The persons applying for visas are staying with host community members, in empty schools and mosques.

UNHCR has highlighted that Sudanese fleeing in the wake of hostilities erupting need international protection. Whilst Egypt is applying the Four Freedoms Agreement for Sudanese in Egypt, some people fleeing are unable to meet the entry requirements and are unable to cross to Egypt despite their need for international protection.

Persons with Specific Needs

Most of the arrivals are families and female-headed households with children, as well as a high number of elderly persons (including many who need wheelchairs), pregnant women, and persons with chronic medical conditions.

There have been a few separated children identified since the beginning of the emergency and so far no unaccompanied children. Two Sudanese new arrivals noted that a concern in Sudan was child recruitment.

ERC has set up a room with games and art supplies to provide psychological first aid and child-friendly activities for newly arrived children, supporting between 90 to 350 children per day on average. ERC also distributes 'happy kits' to children which have colouring and craft materials. Most of the children report they face psychological distress related to their homes being damaged, or having to depart suddenly, and witnessing their parents in severe distress and panic due to the conflict.

Health

Three entities are providing medical services:

1) Quarantine Authority: Passengers are screened on entry before leaving the bus for infectious diseases (primarily Malaria and TB). It provides polio and MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccination of children under the age of 15. Although families are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated, they can decline.

2) Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC): Conducts screening for the severely ill upon disembarking from buses. The following health services are available on a voluntary basis: first aid, light wound care (including sutures); primary health care consultations; stabilization of critical conditions; provision of basic drugs for chronic conditions (currently able to provide 2 weeks of supply); basic psychosocial support mainly directed at children; ambulance services to secondary/tertiary care to hospitals in Abu Simbel and Aswan.

3) Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) Mobile Clinics: Provides specialized care (gynecology/obstetrics and internal medicine); gynecological ultrasound; and ambulance services.

The most common diagnoses seen by ERC vary depending on how long each group of new arrivals have had to wait to cross the border. The longer the wait, the higher the likelihood of dehydration and exacerbation of chronic conditions such as oedema and keto-acidosis.

Coordination

UNHCR and the MFA have agreed to a coordination structure between the UN Country Team (UNCT) and the Government in relation to the Refugee Response Plan.

The MFA clearance for UN staff to be at the two entry points at the border is currently valid for one month. There is a need to formalize the presence of UNHCR in Aswan for the assessment and provision of adequate response which includes a need for registration and data collection to enable proper planning and provision of assistance.

Sudan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan

UNHCR and partners are finalizing a **Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan**, which will include the inter-agency response and budget requirements in the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.

In the meantime, a preliminary summary document has been produced to preview the planning figures and overall budget requirements: [Sudan Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan – Preliminary Summary & Inter-Agency Requirements \(May-October 2023\)](#)

The planning currently covers an outflow of some **860,000 refugees and returnees from Sudan** and will require an estimated budget of **USD 445 million** to support the displaced from May until October 2023.

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