

SUDAN SITUATION

19 – 22 May 2023



UNHCR staff registering refugees hosted by Sudan secondarily displaced to Um Sangour refugee camp in White Nile State, Sudan.
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Highlights

The conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have entered the sixth week. Hundreds of people have died, and thousands have been wounded, while thousands more families are on the move, both within the Sudan and across the borders of neighboring countries.

On 21 May, Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths [welcomed](#) news of a temporary ceasefire in Sudan: *“Time for the warring parties to silence the guns, allow the safe delivery of humanitarian aid, and restore essential services. We and our partners will continue to do everything we can, led and inspired by local organizations”.*

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America [announced](#) that on 20 May representatives of SAF and RSF signed an Agreement on a Short-term Ceasefire and Humanitarian Arrangements. The ceasefire, which is set to take effect at 21:45 Khartoum time on 22 May, is planned to last for seven days and may be extended with the agreement of both parties.

On 19 May, UNHCR made an [urgent appeal](#) for the safety of civilians and to allow humanitarian aid to move freely in Sudan as UNHCR continue to scale up its response for over 1 million people recorded displaced within Sudan and to neighbouring countries.

The Trilateral Mechanism, consisting of the United Nations, the African Union, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), [welcomed](#) the signing of the Agreement on a Short-Term Ceasefire and Humanitarian Arrangements by the SAF and RSF. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the respect of the ceasefire is crucial for facilitating the delivery of aid to over 25 million Sudanese people who are in dire need, accounting for more than half of the country's population.

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.

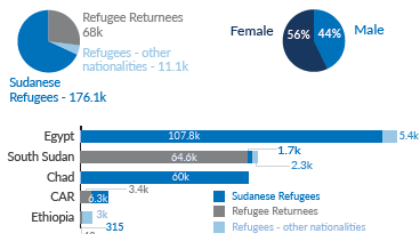
255,237

Estimated newly arrived individuals

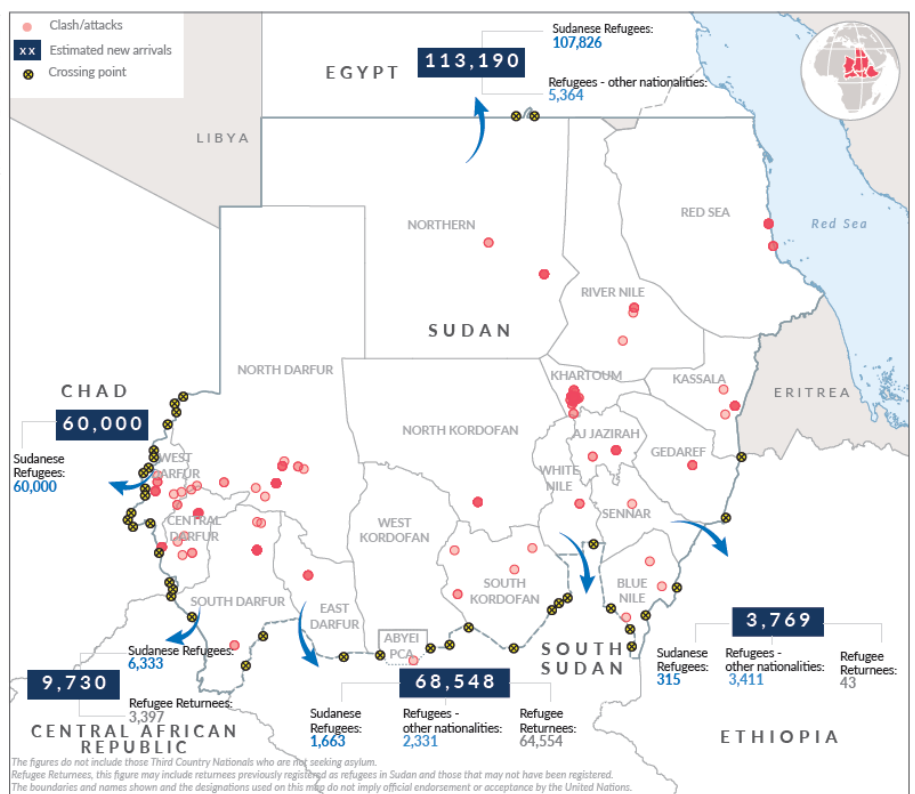
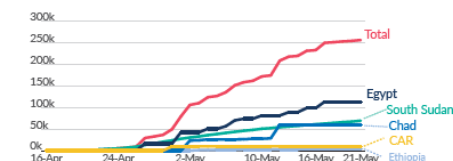
187,243

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 Returnees, 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

Situation and operational response

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 continued to be reported. Outside of Khartoum, the situation in western and southern continues to be volatile, with widespread looting of UN and NGO facilities reported in Zalengei (Central Darfur) and both Nyala (South Darfur) and Ed Daein (East Darfur) witnessing sporadic clashes between SAF and RSF leading to many civilian casualties.

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 not been renewed due to the ongoing conflict.

Updates by location

Khartoum

The UNHCR hotline has received an increased number of calls from Sudanese nationals. Additionally, reports were received indicating that a small number of Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees still in Khartoum might wish to depart eastward by taking advantage of the new ceasefire. South Sudanese refugees have generally been able to move southward.

In general, the security situation remains highly volatile in Khartoum. As a result of the suspension of activities of partners, UNHCR is reviewing Project Partnership Agreements for possible re-programming to other areas.

Kassala

The security situation remains calm. Two buses with refugees and asylum-seekers arrived in Shagarab from Medani on 19 May.

In the camps, partners continue with lifesaving activities in the camps and WFP continues its food distribution activities. Refugees in Shagarab continue to report the alleged presence of traffickers and smugglers in the camps. In this regard, Telling the Real Story (TRS) volunteers have scaled up awareness raising activities in the community. The situation has created a lot of fear in the community, with refugees fearing that smugglers and traffickers have moved to the camps from Khartoum.

Gedaref

UNHCR has received information that some Tigrayan refugees in the camps in Gedaref have started returning to Ethiopia with the help of smugglers. UNHCR in Gedaref is working with UNHCR Ethiopia to verify reports of any return movements of Tigrayans from the other side of the border.

On 18 May, UNHCR held a roundtable with law enforcement and security officials, including immigration and border control authorities to discuss issues related to maintaining the civilian character of asylum, respecting the principle of non-refoulement, and strengthening access of refugees and asylum-seekers to justice. UNHCR and border control authorities agreed to strengthen inter-communication and conduct regular missions to the border. Immigration authorities committed to sharing information with UNHCR, including on the movement of non-Sudanese nationals crossing the border from Sudan to Ethiopia through Gallabat. Efforts to raise awareness among refugees about trafficking should also be scaled up in the camps given the heightened risks due to the current situation.

White Nile

The security situation remains calm, although there is a shortage of goods available in shops and water becoming scarcer.

Out of seven containers of Core Relief Items (CRI) on the way to White Nile, two have arrived in the state and CRIs are being offloaded to support the ongoing response in White Nile. UNHCR have handed over items to support the Ministry of Health in White Nile in its response to the IDPs living in Khor Ajwal IDP camp.

Blue Nile

UNHCR continues to receive distress calls from refugees regarding the food crisis in the camp. The Governor of Blue Nile has called for a meeting with UN and NGOs to discuss food assistance to refugees and IDPs.

At the Kurmuk border point the situation is calm with no significant protection or security incident reported.

West Kordofan

UNHCR continues to receive reports on the movement of large numbers of South Sudanese nationals from Khartoum via Kharasana to South Sudan. About 4,000 are reported to remain in Kharasana settlement due to lack of funds for the onward transportation to South Sudan.

Based on discussions with community leaders in different settlements of West Kordofan, the 9,000 South Sudanese refugees in Kharasana town will most likely make a group decision regarding return to South Sudan. In other localities, significant numbers are expected from Al Meiram, El Fula, Ghubaish localities and Muglad town if the situation continues to be volatile for a long period. The refugees from An Nuhud locality may most likely relocate to the White Nile camps rather than to South Sudan.

South Kordofan

Drinking water has become a challenge for big refugee settlements including Sirajiya and Dar Batti due to the suspension of activities of the WASH partner and the shortage of fuel to run the water systems. It is hoped that the approaching rainy season will raise the haffir (water catchment basin) levels, which could the lessen the severity of the situation.

North Kordofan

El Obeid town is suffering from extreme shortage of drinking water due to the main water supply source equipment being vandalized.

UNHCR is monitoring the daily arrival of South Sudanese nationals and refugees from Khartoum to North Kordofan. The Community Based Protection Networks (CBPNs) and refugee leaders from North Kordofan confirmed that many households are prepared to return to South Sudan but are seeking UNHCR support for their return and inquiring about the safety of the roads.

North Darfur

There is an increase in criminality and banditry including on the main roads, preventing movement of supplies into North Darfur. Additionally, there are reports that armed groups have begun demanding cash or food contributions from the local population in Saraf Omra and Kebkabiya localities.

There are major concerns over lack of support to malnourished children which is aggravated by the reported outbreak of measles in the settlements. Other challenges faced by the refugee population include lack of access to water which is linked to fuel shortage; lack of access to food as refugees have not received food assistance since the end of March, and lack of access to livelihoods. Displacement is reported in Saraf Omra where up to 3,000 IDPs are reported to have recently moved into the area. Meanwhile, access in Sortony, Kebkabiya locality, is difficult due to a main checkpoint that prevents people from crossing. In general, information sharing/reporting is severely challenged due to partners' lack of access to fuel, cash, and stable connectivity.

UNHCR through its partner, has still been able to distribute personal hygiene kits to hospitals, including 21 kits which have been provided to Saudi Hospital in El Fasher.

South Darfur

The situation remains tense. The houses of two UNHCR staff have been affected by shelling. Communication remains a challenge with unstable mobile networks. There are reports that criminals continue to loot the residences of civilians.

West Darfur

The situation remains dire. UNHCR continues to receive reports that there remains a security vacuum in addition to widespread presence of snipers and armed individuals from different communities roaming around town in various neighborhoods. Fetching water has become a challenge with the attack of water points. There are also reports that people have been killed by snipers around water points.

During the Area Humanitarian Country Team (AHCT) meeting, agencies articulated certain preconditions that need to be in place before humanitarian operations can resume.

East Darfur

The situation is tense, with criminality and looting reported. Protection monitoring continues to be conducted and no influx is so far reported in Ed Daein.

In the camps and settlements, operational activities are ongoing with the support of the State Ministry of Health and State Ministry of Education. In Kario Camp, El Nimir Camp, and Abu Jabrah Settlement, health and nutrition supplies are available though not in large quantities. In Al Firdous settlement, services are ongoing at limited capacity due to a shortage of drugs and nutrition supplies, as UNHCR's partner World Vision reports difficulty in secure transportation of supplies. Alight is providing health services in three other health facilities, in Adila, Sharif, and Halal.

Referring patients to Ed Daein is a challenge because of the fuel shortage, increase in vehicle rental costs, and lack of cash. WFP, through its partner and in coordination with the refugee committees, managed to complete the April food distribution in Assalaya refugee settlement, Al Nimir refugee camp, and Kario refugee camp.

Central Darfur

A rapid escalation of fighting between RSF and SAF has resulted in an unspecified number of civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. There are also reports of widespread looting of UN and NGO premises in Zalengei.

No food assistance has been distributed to refugees since December 2022. WFP and UNHCR are discussing possible ways to distribute food in the coming weeks.

Jazirah (Medani)

UNHCR visited Medani to hold discussions with refugees and asylum-seekers about their relocation, assess the situation in the different sites, and speak with local community volunteers who are providing support. Despite earlier indications that thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers were in Al Hasahisa and Medani, only about 600 individuals, comprised of Congolese, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Filipinos and South Sudanese, are currently living in different sites. Some of the Eritreans expressed hesitation about relocating highlighting protection issues and the poor condition of WASH and health services in the Shagarab camps. The South Sudanese refugees requested support with their transportation to Kosti (White Nile). Some refugees noted that they had resettlement cases in process.

UNHCR also met with volunteers affiliated with local NGOs and civil society groups, including the youth resistance committee who continue to provide food, water and other basic assistance to the refugees and asylum seekers currently staying at the different sites in Medani.

The relocations will continue from Medani for those who wish to move to the camps.

Over the recent weekend, a total of 60 refugees and asylum-seekers (36 households), three of whom are Ethiopians and 57 are Eritreans, were relocated from Medani to Um Gargour. This brings the total number of relocated individuals from Medani to Um Gargour to 127 as of 21 May. At the same time, about 60 Ethiopians were relocated from Medani to Tunaydbah camp.

All the newly relocated individuals have gone through medical screening and been provided with hot meals and core relief items such as blankets, sleeping mats, jerrycans and solar lamps.

SOUTH SUDAN

The cumulative number of arrivals in South Sudan recorded as of 21 May was 12,926 households / 69,112 individuals (South Sudanese returnees (93.4% / 64,554 individuals); Sudanese (2.4% / 1,663 individuals); Eritrean (2.0% / 1,394 individuals); and others including Somalis (2.2% / 1,501 individuals).

Nearly 81.6% / 49,714 of these crossed through Joda/Renk in Upper Nile State, around 5.2% / 3,566 individuals through Panakuach in Unity State/Ruweng Administrative Area, around 3.9 %/ 2,688 individuals through Abyei Amieth in Abyei, while nearly 9.8% / 6,758 individuals through the other 13 border-crossing points.

Maban (Upper Nile)

Renk

New arrivals: Cumulatively as of 21 May, 56,100 individuals arrived and were recorded at the Joda border point.

Transit Centre: Following identification of persons with specific needs (PSN) at border reception area, wrist bands have been in use to facilitate follow-up registration and access to assistance at the Renk Transit Centre.

Refugees and asylum-seekers: Cumulatively, 643 households / 879 individuals have expressed their will to go to the camps.

Protection: Two joint sensitization sessions were conducted for HDC and IOM protection enumerators at the border on protection principles and the rapid vulnerability assessment form.

UNHCR's partner, HDC, reported a total of 5 cases (3 boys and 2 girls) of separated children who were identified and documented, as well as 13 cases of children with different vulnerabilities who were referred to War Child Holland and successfully supported with cash for protection, especially for basic needs, at the Transit Center.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM): On 19 May, AIRD started excavation for the construction of eight shelters. Two shelters will be prioritized while the rest should be completed within 26 days.

IOM has confirmed a location of dumping sites for solid waste within Renk. Water supply transportation at the Reception Center will be done by ACTED, and NRC will take care of this service for the Transit Center. As of 19 May, ACTED reported the results of a head count of 5,574 individuals at the Transit Centre.

On 20 May, the African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD) had completed kitchen construction. NRS will begin the construction of six accommodation shelters on Tuesday 23 May. The next head count will also take place on the same date.

Paloich

The humanitarian situation at the transit site close to the airport in Paloich deteriorated further; local authorities will discuss the situation and response with UNHCR and CRA in the coming days.

The government has organized the return of approximately 11,000 South Sudanese from Paloich to their places of origin between 1-19 May. It is estimated that there are currently around 4,000-5,000 returnees still waiting for a flight.

UNHCR and partners maintained the position not to open a second transit centre or camp in Paloich. RRC confirmed that the plan is to transfer the remaining population to their destination within the next 20-30 days, depending on the availability of flights and that no more large groups will be allowed to travel to Paloich. UNHCR and WFP noted that the returnees live in very deplorable conditions and no agencies are present to provide any type of assistance. WFP will look into the option of providing dry food rations for one month.

Maban

An increasing number of Eritreans and Sudanese have agreed to move out of the Reception Centre 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, as of 21 May, 2,117 households / 10,851 individuals were reported to have arrived in Malakal areas of return/relocation (AoR) since the start of the influx from Sudan.

Movement from Makal: The Government Reception Committee started preparing lists of returnees who wish to relocate to Nasir, Bwell and Bentiu and will share it with IOM for boat transport. The next movement is expected in the coming week to Nasir. IOM is looking into increasing onward movement by boat to at least three times per week.

Reception site: In preparation for rainy days, shelters are being constructed in Malakal reception site by UNHCR and IOM to accommodate larger numbers of new arrivals at the Malakal port. IOM has developed the layout/site plan of the reception site, and the deployment of UNHCR site planner is also underway to support the reception site management.

Protection desk: The protection desk is operational with counseling and protection services including multi-sectoral referrals such as medical assistance. For protection needs in the emergency response, UNHCR and partners have updated the existing referral pathways and SOPs. Training of relevant government staff on the referral system is also planned.

Child protection partners War Child and Plan International will maintain a presence at the Protection desk in Malakal port during boat arrival and departure for identification and referral of cases related to children. IMC conducted an awareness session with returnee women on services related to gender-based violence including for rape cases.

UNHCR partner HDC established a reception site at the El Kuek border point in Wadakona to monitor arrivals, provide protection counselling, and conduct vulnerability assessment.

Housing, Land and Property (HLP) support: As of 20 May, 95 individuals were identified to have land/plots in Malakal town without shelters. UNHCR, HDC, and the government will jointly verify the cases and share the list with the Ministry of Housing, Land and Public Utilities and Municipality for verification and official visit/assessment.

It has been observed that most returnees (new and previous arrivals) have gone for days without food. UNHCR raised it with the Government Reception Committee and is currently reaching out to partners to support with hot meals.

Jamjang (Unity | Ruweng Administrative Area)

Panakuach

The situation at the Panakuach border entry point was calm and accessible to new arrivals from Sudan and permissible for humanitarian operations. Security forces at the boarder were moving unarmed with no incidents reported at the border point.

Wau (NBeG | WBeG | Abyei Administrative Area)

Northern Bahr El Ghazal State (NBeG)

Wadwil transit site: On 19 May, the 10 trucks organized by the government departed from Kiir Adem mainly with returnees.

The returnees in Wadwil are facing a difficult situation. Community leaders reported a severe lack of food, shelter, and medication at the Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU). Currently, community members are staying under the trees without proper shelter.

On 21 May, UNHCR together with WVI and CRA distributed CRIs (sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets, jerrycans, soap, personal hygiene kits and underwear for women and girls, cooking sets, solar lamps) to 243 households of asylum-seekers in Wadwil.

Community leaders have shed light on the returnees' intentions:

- Most returnees from NBeG (Aweil North and Aweil East), comprising the majority of the 2,000 individuals on site, are reluctant to return to their places of origin due to the lack of available services.
- Returnees from other states such as Lake, Warrap, WBeG, Central Equatoria, and Unity are generally willing to return if they receive transportation and basic support.

All UN agencies have the same position, to avoid establishing a camp or transit center for the returnees.

Kiir-Kangbek: On 21 May, CRA, UNHCR and WVI conducted a mission to Kiir-Kangbek, an isolated border point in Aweil North Countys. A cumulative number of 555 households / 1,300 individual returnees and 644 households / 1,624 individuals, asylum-seekers, were reported coming from Nyala, Khartoum, El-Fasher and West Darfur since the Sudan conflict outbreak.

The Government has sent five trucks to facilitate the transportation of the asylum-seekers from Kiir-kangbek to Wadwil although lack of fuel is a challenge. A separate arrangement is being made to transport the returnees. Shelter and food are the urgent needs of the people who are collecting wild fruits and fish for survival.

On 20 May, UNHCR visited Kiir-Adem border with CRA. The joint visit was organized to identify the number of asylum-seekers and refugee returnees remaining at the border and in need of transport. The site was more empty than the previous week, with only one group of asylum-seekers (refugee leader reported some 400 persons), and one group of refugee returnees around the same size.

Western Bahr El Ghazal State / Raja County

On 21 May, the team in Raja reported five households / 17 individuals from CAR who entered through Boromedina on 19 May from Rodom Camp in CAR, stating insecurity in the camp. Their wish was to go to Fongo/Wau to join their relatives.

Abyei Administrative Area

On 20 May, the situation in Abyei was still tense and the local population was advised not to go to the Amiet market following an incident that occurred on 19 May. Fighting between the Dinka Ngok and Misseriya Arab tribes that erupted in the Amiet Market forced 98 Eritrean refugees to move from the border to Abyei town. This brings the total number of refugees in Abyei to 147 individuals.

Vulnerability assessment: Among the refugees in Abyei, there are 39 females, majority of them being young girls who could be at GBV risk, and 11 children. Five households have resettlement cases in process for Canada.

Two temporary community shelters are being set up.

Transportation of refugees from Abyei: UNHCR in Jamjang office has identified two truck drivers willing to go to Abyei. These are commercial trucks which are also contracted by WFP to transport food. On 21 May, UNHCR, CRA and HCO registered and verified 46 refugees willing to be transferred to Jamjang.

CHAD

As the conflict has already entered in its second month, UNHCR and partners continue to provide life-saving assistance and protection services to those fleeing violence in Sudan. In addition to the already 60,000 refugees who arrived in Chad, new refugee arrivals were reported in the Ade Department, Sila province. UNHCR and the Commission Nationale d'Accueil de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés (CNARR) have deployed a team to the area to assess the situation and the needs of the arrivals.

The refugee relocation exercise from arrival areas continues to already existing camps that were expanded, and where additional shelters have been constructed to receive new arrivals. The identified camps for relocation are Farchana and Gaga in the Ouaddai province; Milé and Kounougou in the Wadi Fira province; and Djabal et Goz Amir in the Sila province. As of 19 May a total of 1,581 refugees were relocated.

On 17 and 18 May, a joint mission to Ouaddai Province took place, with the participation of the UN Resident Coordinator in Chad, the UNHCR Chad Deputy Representative, the Deputy Director of the UNHCR Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa, and the Governor. During the mission the arrival areas and the already existing camps in Ouaddai were visited and discussions on the relocation exercise took place.

Registration

As of 19 May, the total number of newly arrived refugees counted reached 54,573, including 42,831 in Ouaddai, 6,463 in Sila and 5,279 in Wadi Fira. A total of 19,956 refugees have so far been pre-registered.

Relocation plan

A total of 1,581 refugees were relocated as of 19 May, including:

- In Wadi Fira, on 17 May, 270 people were relocated from Djatak and Hideba sites to Kounougou camp. As of 19 May, a total of 584 persons were relocated to the Kounougou camp.
- In Ouaddai, on 17 and 18 May, 337 persons were relocated from Goungour to Gaga camp. So far, a total of 997 people were relocated to Gaga camp.
- In Sila, on May 19, about 220 persons were relocated from Hile Hissein to Goz Amir camp.

Education

UNHCR's partners JRS visited the sites of Koufroun and Midjiguilta sites, in Ouaddai province, to collect education related data. A total of 17 focus groups discussions were conducted to gather the necessary information to work on an appropriate response to meet the educational needs of newly arrived refugee children. In addition, a distribution of school supplies, including notebooks, pens, pencils, and paper, took place in Koufroun. Educational needs assessments are currently ongoing in other sites of the province.

Awareness-raising sessions on the importance of education have been conducted in Koufroun, Borota and Misgiketa sites, in Ouaddai province, and about 212 primary and secondary level teachers been identified among the refugees.

Core Relief item (CRI) Distribution

- In Borota, CRIs were transported to various arrival sites for distribution. Stocks include 54,000 soaps, 15,430 plastic sheets, 7,434 blankets, 3,750 mattresses, 3,720 buckets, 3,200 jerry cans, 1,360 solar lamps, 600 kitchen sets and 550 mosquito nets.
- In Koufroun, Ouaddai province, dignity kits provided by UNFPA were distributed to refugee women.
- In Wadi Fira province, ACF provided 500 core relief items including jerry cans, buckets, soaps, aluminium cup, solar lamps, and bleach. On 18 May, the newly 147 relocated households to Kounougou camp received core relief items.

Food Distribution

As of 19 May, 38,990 refugees have received food in Ouaddai (32,828) and in Sila (6,162) with the support of WFP.

Health and Nutrition

- 11,166 medical consultations have been conducted since the beginning of the emergency. Malaria, acute respiratory infections and watery diarrhoea remain prevalent conditions.
- 5,444 children have been screened for malnutrition since the crisis started.
- 58 deliveries were assisted.
- 2,254 individuals were reached through the multisectoral awareness campaign since the beginning of the emergency.

Shelter

- 300 family shelters are being constructed in Kounougou and Mile camps, in the Wadi Fira province, with the support of UNHCR's partner ADES.
- 500 shelters have been constructed in Gaga camp, in the Ouaddai province, where refugees are currently being relocated; and works are starting in Farchana, in the same province.
- Shelters are also being constructed in the in Goz Amir and Djabal camps, in the Sila province.

WASH

- On 19 May, a coordination meeting was held with government, UN agencies, and NGO partners to provide an update on the WASH situation in the various sites to assess gaps and needs, particularly focusing on the border areas.
- To expand drinking water supply:
 - The construction of three boreholes, funded by UNICEF, has been completed in Ouaddai, on the Koufroun axis.
 - UNHCR's partner LMI is supporting micro drilling in Borota, Ouaddai province, to enhancing water supply.
- To improve sanitation and hygiene in Ouaddai:
 - 38 latrines and showers were constructed, and 78 pit latrines have been designed with the support of LMI in Gaga camp.
 - 1 tank support structure was completed, bringing the total number of tank support structures in Gaga camp to five.
 - 15 latrines and 15 showers were completed on the Koufroun area with the support of ADRA and ACTED.
- To improve sanitation and hygiene:
 - 81 latrines and showers were built in Sila, 66 in the Goz Amir extension zone and 15 in Djabal.
 - In the Mile and Kounougou extension zone, a block of three emergency latrines and showers, a block of two latrines, two hand-washing facilities and two garbage bins were installed.
 - 32 latrines and 32 showers were completed in the Gaga extension.
 - Cleaning and disinfection of the Borota refugee settlement site and the Koufroune area are ongoing, and defecation areas are being prepared.

Protection

Under the leadership of UNHCR and CNARR, the first Protection Working Group meeting was held in Farchana on 19 May to define roles and responsibilities and moreover, to organize a mission to Gaga camp to assess and respond to protection needs.

ETHIOPIA

UNHCR's response in Ethiopia is focusing on the screening and recording of refugees and asylum-seekers, responding to protection and humanitarian needs, access to health, and referring people in need to appropriate services. Together with Ethiopia's Refugees and Returnees Service (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 in the Amhara region. The relocation of new refugees and asylum-seekers is ongoing.

Population movements

According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), between 21 April and 18 May, over 26,500 people (64 nationalities) arrived in Metema, Amhara region.

As of 18 May, 3,942 individuals/2,065 families (76% Eritreans, 9% Sudanese and 13% South Sudanese) have been screened by UNHCR and verified as asylum-seekers and recognized refugees in Sudan, including 49 Ethiopian refugees returning from Sudan. Of these, 80% crossed through Metema, 13% entered via the Kurmuk border point in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, and 7% through Pagak/Burbley in the Gambella region. 44% of the screened population are women and girls, while 56% men and boys.

Out of the individuals screened so far, 45% (or 1,784, including the 49 Ethiopian refugee returnees) were registered as refugees in Sudan. 55% (2,158) are new arrivals (refugees), including 361 Sudanese nationals who have so far been screened as in need of international protection in Ethiopia.

Operational response

UNHCR Principal Situation Coordinator (PSC) travelled on mission to Metema on 16 and 17 May to review UNHCR's response and capacity on the ground. The Zonal Administrator and the RRS expressed appreciation for UNHCR's prompt response and for its contribution to the development of the transit site and relocation of beneficiaries. The authorities requested that the development of the transit site be expedited to rapidly decongest the border area and that the development of the permanent refugee site in Kumar kebele (70km from Metema) be also accelerated.

Protection

As of 21 May, 130 persons (incl. 78 women) with specific needs (pregnant women, elderly persons, persons with chronic illnesses and persons with disabilities) have been identified at the reception desk in Metema. UNHCR is providing material support and advocates for their prioritization during the relocation to the transit site.

Also at Metema, 13 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 caretaking 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 in Metema so far. UNHCR aims to establish as soon as possible a protection desk at the Metema transit center to provide beneficiaries with necessary information and to ensure that they are referred to relevant service providers for targeted assistance. UNHCR also intend to set up community structures to strengthen the linkage between different partners and asylum-seekers/refugees, and to ensure that refugees participate in making decisions affecting their lives.

In Metema, UNHCR began with the profiling of resettlement cases (both UNHCR resettlement cases and private sponsorship cases). A total of 165 heads of households have been interviewed so far and provided with guidance and counselling.

Health response

Due to the absence of a mobile medical service at the transit center, refugees must currently travel back to the border to benefit from medical services. West Gondar Health Bureau, WHO and UNHCR discussed ways to resume provision of health services at the transit center. The Health Bureau suggested that it would deploy health professionals to operate at the transit center, while UNHCR would cover their per diem payments.

Food and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

A total of 1,717 individuals received food assistance in Metema. A total of 892 refugees and asylum-seekers have received CRIs at Metema transit center so far. At Kurmuk, in the Benishangul Gumuz region (BSGR), UNHCR will discontinue provision of hot meals as of 25 May due to budget constraints. However, UNHCR and partners are trying to find a solution to cover this vital service.

Shelter and WASH Update

In Metema, UNHCR is developing a plot of land allocated by the authorities for a transit site. So far, 17 emergency shelters have been completed there, to house some 850 people. As of 21 May, 1,000 refugees and asylum-seekers have been relocated from the Metema border to the Metema/Mandefo Tarara transit site. Eventually, all refugees and asylum-seekers will be relocated to the transit site if they wish. In the relocation effort, IOM provides transportation, UNHCR counselling, shelters, and WASH, while the EMT secures health services.

A rub hall, which will be used for the temporary storage of CRIs before distribution to refugees and asylum-seekers, was also erected at the Metema site. Construction of a Protection Desk at the transit center is ongoing. Limited capacity for Child Protection and GBV response remains a challenge at Metema site, as well as the lack of youth-friendly spaces.

The Zonal Water Office agreed to lend UNHCR a water tank to use at the Metema center. This will enable the supply of more water at the transit site.

In Benishangul Gumuz Region, UNHCR has already established a transit center with the capacity to host 2,000 people, and is currently facilitating its expansion, due to restriction of relocations to the Tsore camp, imposed by the woreda administration. According to the local authorities, the reason behind the restriction are ongoing tensions between refugee and local communities in the Tsore refugee camp, with a high risk of escalating.

On 19 May, UNHCR completed the renovation at the Sherkole reception shelter for 400 people. UNHCR and partners are planning to relocate refugees to the newly rehabilitated reception premises on 22 May.

A total of 508 persons have been accommodated in the transit center in Kurmuk, as of 18 May.

EGYPT

Arrivals

As of 19 May, over 126,300 people have entered Egypt from Sudan since 15 April, comprising around 121,000 Sudanese individuals and 5,364 third-country nationals (17 May), as reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to UNHCR.

Registration

Since 18 April, over 5,500 individuals seeking international protection have approached UNHCR Egypt for registration, the vast majority of whom are Sudanese nationals. All asylum-seekers have been given registration appointments and UNHCR has scaled up registration capacity to respond to the demand.

Border Mission

A UNHCR team visited the Qustol border crossing on 20 May and met with local authorities, who indicated willingness to collaborate. The mission also met with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC). According to the ERC and local authorities, Qustol receives a high number of daily refugees due to its proximity to Wadi Halfa, and new arrivals can be profiled in two groups: one from Omdurman and Bahri, considered wealthier, and another from Khartoum, with higher vulnerability.

Local authorities showed interest to collaborate on a protection and refugees' capacity development program. UNHCR will follow up with the head of land border crossings and Ports in Cairo. The mission also observed that availability of ferry transportation from Qustol to Abu Simbel is limited.

Protection

UNHCR continues to meet with newly arrived Sudanese in Aswan and Cairo. On 18 May, UNHCR visited a local motel in Aswan serving as a shelter for 5-7 nights before families move to Cairo. During the visit, a Sudanese mother from Khartoum mentioned 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. UNHCR also visited temporary shelter managed by a Sudanese community school accommodating arrivals for 48 hours. Sudanese families staying at the shelter reported their intention to travel to Cairo and other major cities, citing better access to 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.

On 19 May, UNHCR and the US State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) visited recently arrived Sudanese families at a community-based shelter in Aswan. The families shared the various challenges they encountered along the way, including the extensive travel time and the significant influx of people attempting to cross the borders from Sudan. Families raised concerns about the education of their children and the intention to settle in Cairo.

Core Relief Items

UNHCR, through the ERC, is providing emergency assistance at the border. This includes supporting the ERC to scale up the range of services they can offer at the border, including the distribution of water and hygiene items. As of 22 May, UNHCR has provided to ERC a total of 140,800 bottles of water (40,000 1,5L bottles and 100,000 0.6L bottles), 10,000 hygiene kits, and 5,000 packs of sanitary napkins.

Main needs and gaps

The situation on the Sudanese side of the border reportedly remains concerning, as conditions continue to deteriorate. 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. UNHCR observations indicate that conditions at the Sudanese side of the border remain difficult with a lack of water, food, WASH facilities, and speculation on the costs of the buses for from Sudan to Egypt, all resulting in people enduring long periods of time in dire conditions. The ERC reported an increase in medical cases arriving at the border due to the breakdown 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.

UNHCR Egypt has signed a partnership agreement with the ERC to implement its response at the Sudanese border. The agreement will see ERC deliver water and items including hygiene and sanitation kits, provide for the transport of vulnerable people from the border to Aswan and other cities, and assist those in need of medical and first aid support, including mental health and psychosocial support. The onward transportation from the border would be for vulnerable cases, including the relocation of unaccompanied and separated children to safe space accommodation. The agreement also provides for capacity support to the ERC including through the provision of tablets, laptops, and communication equipment and includes, where possible, for the ERC to inform new arrivals on how to register and access support services through UNHCR.

Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)



1.1M PEOPLE
TOTAL PLANNING FIGURE



640K

SUDANESE REFUGEES AND REFUGEES
OF OTHER NATIONALITIES



204K

REFUGEE
RETURNEES



166.5K

MIGRANT
RETURNEES



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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