SUDAN SITUATION

10 – 16 October 2023

The ongoing clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that started on 15 April 2023 have continued for 184 days as of 16 October.

Nearly 6 million people have been forced to flee Sudan since mid-April – an average of 1 million people per month. A story map UNHCR published to mark six months of the Sudan crisis described the impact on civilians and refugees caught in the crossfire as catastrophic.

Video: Three UNHCR Regional Directors have joined forces in Geneva to raise the alarm on the dire humanitarian situation in Sudan.

Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, said in a statement that the war in Sudan has plunged the country into one of the worst humanitarian nightmares in recent history.

The UN Human Rights Council on 11 October established an Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan, in response to the ongoing war between the national army and paramilitary forces.
Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- Last week, 99 new arrivals from Ethiopia have been registered after crossing through the Mukla border point. This brings the total number of new arrivals from Ethiopia since August to 765.
- A UN interagency joint humanitarian convoy, carrying UNHCR supplies from Kosti to Darfur, has now been rescheduled for 17 October.
- 1,043 displaced families in El Obeid, including 718 South Sudanese refugee families and 325 IDP families, received CRIs.
- Following reports of the spread of dengue fever in Gedaref state, four suspected cases have been reported in the refugee camps in the state and are being investigated.

Updates by Location

Darfur

The distribution of cash for refugees and select host community members in Al Lait settlements in North Darfur, is scheduled to commence on 19 October, marking the first such distribution in this settlement since the conflict began in April. Distribution of Core Relief Items (CRIs) will follow immediately after that.

The UN interagency joint humanitarian convoy, traveling from Kosti to Darfur and other remote areas, is now rescheduled for 17 October, delivering plastic tarpaulins, mosquito nets, and medicines.

Essential medicines have been delivered from El Fasher, North Darfur, to Al Lait settlement in collaboration with the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) and UNICEF’s national partner, Sahari.
Organization for Development (SOD). UNHCR and the Commission for Refugees (COR) will oversee the implementation of the distribution plan at primary healthcare centers.

The scheduled cross-border missions to West Darfur (Kulbus and Jebel Moon) have been delayed and rescheduled due to security issues. In the meantime, efforts are underway to assess broader access options through cross-border operations, including the potential for reaching North Darfur from Chad via the Tina crossing.

**Kordofan States**
Save the Children International (SCI) completed the distribution of CRIs in El Obeid, reaching 1,043 displaced families, including 718 South Sudanese refugee families and 325 IDP families. UNHCR is working with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to provide 800 CRI kits to support new IDPs who are currently sheltering in schools in Kadugli.

**White Nile State**
Registration activities continue to be suspended, causing delays in the overall process of preparing IDPs to receive the support they need. In the meantime, the registration team continues to be actively engaged in data cleanup focusing on updating addresses for cases transferred from Khartoum, as well as in the assessment of refugees in IDP gathering sites in Kosti and Rabak localities.

UNHCR recently organized a two-day workshop focused on enhancing the capacity of 36 social workers affiliated with the Ministry of Health and Social Development (MoHSD). The social workers have been subsequently deployed to Kosti and Rabak to collect data of the IDPs that are living with the host communities. The primary aim of these efforts is to gain a more in-depth understanding of the needs and challenges faced by IDPs with the aim to strengthen protection initiatives.

Installation 500 family tents has started in Aljameya camp, with 10 of them already pitched.

**Blue Nile State**
Ninety-nine new arrivals from Ethiopia’s Benishangul-Gumuz Region, who recently crossed through the Mukla border point, were registered. UNHCR and the Commission for Refugees (COR) conducted a mission to the border last week to confirm reports of more people arriving from Ethiopia. Since August, a total of 765 new arrivals from Ethiopia have been registered in Camp 6.

**Gedaref**
Border monitoring continues to be undertaken. In Gallabat, protection staff fielded a mission together with the health partner to ensure that arrivals entering through the border undergo medical screening before they are relocated to the camps.

Four suspected cases of dengue fever have been reported in the refugee camps (Um Rakuba and Um Gargour) following reports of the spread of the virus in other parts of the state. Currently, there are no testing kits in the area, but UNHCR is working with authorities to ensure samples are taken and examined as soon as possible to confirm the infections and take the necessary actions to provide treatment and step-up prevention measures.

**Kassala**
New arrivals continue to be reported in the state, with 137 individuals (136 Eritrean and 1 Somali) received by COR in Shagarab reception center in the past week. All of them have been biometrically registered.

COR has approved the registration of seven refugee-led organizations from seven different camps. UNHCR is now working to support them with training and resources to engage them in the implementation of sanitation projects. This is part of UNHCR’s ongoing effort to promote refugees’ self-reliance.

**Wadi Halfa (Northern State)**
UNHCR and partners mapped 61 gathering sites for IDPs in Wadi Halfa, Merowe and Dongola localities, where 8,743 people are being sheltered. Most of them (69 per cent) are in Wadi Halfa, the majority of which said they may want to move onwards to Egypt.
In Wadi Halfa, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), with support from UNHCR, has identified community-based protection network members in all gathering sites. These members will receive training on key protection issues in line with UNHCR’s community-based approach in its IDP engagement.

Community-based protection network members play a crucial role by working to safeguard the well-being, rights, and safety of vulnerable individuals and communities.

**CHAD**

**Highlights**
- As of 16 October, UNHCR counted more than 442,000 refugees in eastern Chad.
- A total of 80,505 individuals (23,230 households) have been biometrically registered, 85 per cent of them women and children.
- 73 primary and secondary school refugee teachers were trained on the Chadian curriculum.
- Since the beginning of the emergency, a total of 100,479 medical consultations have been carried out. Malaria, acute respiratory infections, and watery diarrhoea remain the three most frequent pathologies.

**Relocation**
As of 16 October, 176,861 people in 47,654 households have been relocated from the border areas to seven existing camps and four new ones. Relocation has temporarily been paused as existing camps have reached full capacity, while Milé camp is being expanded to accommodate more people.

**Protection**
UNHCR trained 20 of its and partners’ staff members working on child protection on data collection tools and UNHCR’s case management system. The objectives of this training were to improve understanding of case management processes, digitalize data for more effective monitoring, and ensure the security and confidentiality of information.

Awareness raising sessions on GBV were conducted in five camps (Bredjing, Tréguine, Gaga Farchana, and K-Moura), reaching 1,589 people, including men, women, boys, and girls.

**Education**
In Djabal, Goz-Amir, and Zabout camps, 73 refugee teachers, including 22 women, were trained on the Chadian curriculum to enhance their familiarity with the national education system. The trainees, who teach in elementary and secondary schools, were trained by UNHCR’s partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in collaboration with the Provincial Delegation of National Education.

**Health and Nutrition**
*Health:* A total of 100,479 medical consultations have been carried out since the start of the emergency. Malaria, acute respiratory infections, and watery diarrhoea were the three most frequent pathologies. Overall, a total of 6,692 individuals received treatment for mental health while 1,239 deliveries were attended to by qualified personnel.

*Nutrition:* A total of 54,054 children were screened for malnutrition of which 12,961 with moderate acute malnutrition and 7,243 with severe acute malnutrition were treated.

**Shelter Infrastructure and WASH**
The per capita water supply in Zabout, Djabal and Goz Amir camps in Sila district stood at 10.02, 15.4 and 14.8 l/p/d, respectively. However, water supply in Ouaddai district remained far below the standard at 9.04 l/p/d.

A total of 24,639 shelters, 125 sheds, and 4,161 bathrooms, and showers were constructed in camps in Wadi Fra, Sila, and Ouaddai districts.

**IT/Telecommunication**
VHF radio equipment has been set up in Farchana, expanding radio communication to Ourang and Arkoum sites. Furthermore, UNHCR is in discussions with a local telecom company to gain access to one
of their strategically located towers, situated midway between all refugee sites and the transit center in Farchana, to enhance overall communications.

In Amdjarass and Guereda, UNHCR has successfully introduced a second internet link to improve connectivity for UNHCR and humanitarian partners’ offices. There is also ongoing progress in establishing connectivity at the Djabbal site in Field Office Goz-Beida and the Kounougou site in Field Office Guereda. Registration activities will commence in both of these locations next week.

Central African Republic (CAR)

**Highlights**
- As of 16 October, a total of 9,512 person have been biometrically registered—89 per cent of them are women and children.
- To date, a total of 2,075 individuals have relocated to Korsi where they can access protection support and services.
- 12 GBV survivors were identified last week and referred to relevant service providers within Korsi camp.
- NOURLRIR, World Health Organization (WHO) and International Medical Corps (IMC) jointly carried out 558 medical consultations.

**Response Overview**
Since the beginning of the crisis, 20,520 people have arrived in CAR from Sudan, including 15,819 Sudanese refugees and 4,701 Central African returnees, with the majority being women and children. To date a total of 2,075 individuals have settled in Korsi, where registration is ongoing, and assistance is being delivered.

**Registration and relocation**
A total of 9,512 individuals (3,348 households) have been biometrically registered. In total 852 assistance cards and 191 family certificates were issued and distributed, granting families access to assistance.

A total of 2,075 individuals have relocated to Korsi since the exercise started in late May, where they can access protection and services. However, except for some spontaneous relocations, organized relocations have now been put on hold due to the rainy season which has rendered the roads impassable.

**Protection**
UNHCR’s partners, INTERSOS identified 12 GBV survivors in the past week and referred them to relevant service providers within Korsi camp. It also organized awareness raising sessions on GBV, reaching 360 individuals with key messages on how to prevent GBV and where to report and seek support.

INTERSOS also carried out 10 individual counselling sessions last week, reaching people with specific needs, including pregnant and lactating women and those living in difficult conditions. The agency also distributed sanitary pads and educated the beneficiaries on how to use them.

The results of a survey that was conducted in Korsi, Birao, Manou, Ambassatna, Songo, Tambaye and Tambaye neighborhoods indicated that both refugees and host communities are in dire need of shelter and CRIs. As the school year sets in, challenges in paying schools fees were also flagged in the survey which involved 31 refugee and host community informants.

**Education**
The 2023/2024 academic year has started with 150 refugee students attending classes when it began last week.

**Health**
NOURLRIR, WHO and IMC jointly carried out 558 medical consultations during the week. Malaria, watery diarrhea, digestive bacterial infections, and acute respiratory infections were the main pathologies recorded.
Shelter, CRIIs and Food Distribution
WFP along with NOURRIR began distributing food for 1,992 people in Korsi, already reaching 920 of them in the past week. Meanwhile, WFP provided NOURRIR with dry food to prepare cooked meals for some 200 new arrivals for the period of one month.

UNHCR distributed solar lamps for Sudanese refugees in Koris for nighttime illumination which will help reduce the risk of violence.

WASH
NOURRIR conducted awareness raising sessions on proper utilization of latrines and shower rooms, reaching almost 1,000 households.

ICT
UNHCR continues to provide stable internet connection to its partners and the broader humanitarian community.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights
- As of 12 October, 37,555 refugees and asylum-seekers (17,758 families), including 1,878 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia.
- The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is gearing up to establish regular Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services at Kurmuk.
- 875 vulnerable families received Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to cover their immediate needs, including food.
- Level 3 (L3) biometric registration of refugees has commenced on 10 October at the Metema transit center, documenting 339 individuals (180 families) as of 15 October.

Population Movements
As of 12 October, 37,555 refugees and asylum-seekers (17,758 families), including 1,878 Ethiopian refugee returnees, have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia. Of these, 50.5 per cent crossed through the Metema entry point in Amhara, 44.2 per cent through the Kurmuk entry point in Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State (BGR) and 700 individuals through different entry points in Gambella (Pagak, Burbiey). Most of the new arrivals are Sudanese (68.7%), followed by Eritreans (22.2%), and South Sudanese (4.4%).

Protection
During the past week, 21 separated children, 11 of them girls, were identified and registered at Kurmuk. This brings to 542 the number of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC) registered in BGR since last April. Of these, 235 are girls. All are receiving comprehensive child protection support including foster family arrangements where possible. To monitor the protection and wellbeing of the children, home visits were conducted, reaching 81 children.

A total of 305 children were engaged in daily indoor and outdoor recreational activities at the Kurmuk transit center’s temporary Child-Friendly Space (CFS). They were also given high-energy biscuits during these activities.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) has continued to connect children with their families, facilitating 35 phone calls per week.

UNHCR’s partner, IRC, is actively establishing regular GBV and MHPSS services at Kurmuk. IRC provided those services on ad hoc basis because of budgetary constraints.

In Metema, Amhara region, UNHCR, in collaboration with its Child Protection partner, Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (HIS), conducted training sessions. In one, 33 participants, including refugee leaders and local authorities, were trained on Child Protection (CP), case management, and Psychosocial
support (PSS). Another session, attended by 50 participants, covered Child Protection (CP) and positive parenting. The participants included caregivers, law enforcement, community leaders, refugee leaders, child welfare committee members, local administration and Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) staff, as well as representatives from the women and child welfare office.

Registration
Level 3 (L3) biometric registration of refugees commenced on 10 October at the Metema transit center, documenting 339 individuals (180 families) as of 15 October. The registration will help refugees access assistance and services including food.

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)
The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provided MPCA to one additional family at the Kurmuk transit centre, bringing the total number of beneficiary families so far to 875 (4,545 individuals). A total of 900 most vulnerable families were identified for the support, with some 25 additional families expected to come and collect in the next days. Each of the families received ETB 6,300 (approximately USD 113). Most of them mentioned that they intend to use this assistance to purchase food for themselves and their children. The beneficiaries were selected based on certain vulnerability criteria, prioritizing families with malnourished children, UASC or OVC, large families, female-headed families, and those with persons with disabilities.

Food distribution
Following WFP’s decision to resume food distributions for refugees, preparations have been finalized to start food distribution at Kumer settlement in Amhara. Food items, including cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, salt and CSB++ (specialized food product used for the treatment of malnutrition) have been prepositioned and the distribution modalities defined.

Health
In Kurmuk, RRS has continued to provide health services at the Transit Centre, with 428 patients, including 131 children under five, receiving consultations and treatment. Malaria remains a significant health issue in the area, followed by Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) and watery diarrhea. Out of 96 children under five years that were screened for malnutrition at the Kurmuk transit centre, 11 exhibited signs of malnutrition and were referred for appropriate treatment. However, lack of nutritious food is posing a challenge for the effective running of nutrition programmes.

At Kumer site in Amhara, 606 refugee and host community patients, including 148 children under five received medical assistance in the past week. Lower Respiratory Tract Infection (LRTI), URTI and diarrheal diseases were the top ailments treated. UNICEF’s mobile health teams continue to provide healthcare services at the transit site.

Among 100 people screened for malnutrition, including 70 children under five and 30 pregnant and lactating mothers, 20 exhibited signs of malnutrition and were referred for treatment.

WASH
The per capita water distribution at the Kurmuk transit centre stood at 10 liters per person per day (l/p/d). UNHCR and partners are working to increase this to 15 l/p/d. A total of 146 latrines are available to serve the new arrivals at the Kurmuk transit centre and in Sherkole camp.

In the Amhara region, the per capita water supply stood at 8.4 l/p/d and 12.4 l/p/d at Kumer site and Metema transit centre, respectively.

Education
Discussions were held with the relevant local authorities in Amhara region on the for inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in the local schools. Refugee incentive teachers are being registered to receive appropriate training before they start teaching in the elementary schools at Kumer and Awlala sites.
Site development, Shelter and CRIs

In the Amhara region, UNHCR and its partners are making progress in preparing the new Awulala site to receive new arrivals. The relocation of the 2,500 individuals currently staying at the Metema transit center is planned by 20 October.

EGYPT

Highlights

- Since mid-April, almost 73,000 new arrivals from Sudan have been registered, 89 per cent of them Sudanese.
- Homelessness remains a primary concern for refugees in Egypt as rental expenses keep rising.
- Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) delivered healthcare services to over 27,000 new arrivals, treating them for dehydration, heatstroke, insect bites, infections, diabetes, and heart failure.

Protection and Registration

A total of 107,013 new arrivals from Sudan have been given appointments for registration, of which 72,933 (68 per cent) have already been registered. 89 per cent of them are Sudanese nationals while South Sudanese (5 per cent) and Eritreans (4 per cent) are the other main nationalities registered. Most Sudanese (88 per cent) originate from Khartoum, while more than 4 per cent are from the Darfur region.

A new UNHCR Reception Desk started operating last week providing protection screenings to the growing number of people with protection concerns. Some 250 people already sought help at the Desk, of which 141 were directed to other UNHCR units for protection services and assistance.

Homelessness remains a primary concern for refugees in Egypt. Most of those who approached UNHCR last week expressed worries about homelessness or living in unstable housing conditions. This is primarily because a significant number of individuals find it challenging to manage the increasing rental expenses in Greater Cairo. Furthermore, people mentioned the struggle to secure employment or other sources of income, which restricts their capacity to cover their rent.

Health

Since the crisis began in April, UNHCR’s partner, ERC, has delivered medical assistance to 27,094 new arrivals from Sudan. This support was extended at the Argeen and Qustol border crossing points, addressing various health issues such as dehydration, heatstroke, insect bites, infections, diabetes, and heart failure. In severe cases, the ERC team provided initial stabilization and then referred patients to hospitals in Abu Simbel or Aswan. A total of 147 individuals were referred to hospitals, the majority during the initial weeks of the crisis when larger numbers of people were crossing, leading to longer wait times on the Egyptian side of the border.

Water

UNHCR transported 27,720 liters of mineral water to the border for distribution to new arrivals from Sudan.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- 9,373 individuals arrived in South Sudan in the last week, bringing the total numbers of arrivals since April to 315,065. Approximately 98 per cent of them entered via the Joda/Renk border point.
- UNHCR border monitoring teams noted a sustained increase in the number of Sudanese refugees entering South Sudan, with 2,739 new arrivals recorded last week.
- Overcrowding remains a challenge at the Renk transit centre where more new arrivals are being received and no relocations are taking place due to the rainy season.
- For the first time since August, 208 Sudanese refugees were relocated from Abyei Administrative area to Wedweil Settlement.
- Latrine coverage across multiple transit centres remains dire, particularly as more emergency latrines are being decommissioned than constructed.
Protection
Registration: More than 37,000 refugees have arrived in South Sudan since the start of the Sudan refugee emergency, with 61 per cent (22,458) biometrically registered so far. The biggest registration backlog remains in Wedwill Settlement where only 32 per cent of refugees are biometrically registered, up from 27 per cent the week before.

In Renk, UNHCR has communicated with refugees of its plan to start biometric registration as of 17 October. Some 7,730 refugees have already been profiled in advance of this activity.

Persons with Specific Needs: Since the start of the emergency, 24,955 individuals with at least one vulnerability have been identified at the border with Sudan. The top three vulnerabilities include women at risk (41 per cent), persons with disabilities or serious medical condition (27 per cent) and female headed household (20 per cent).

Refugee relocation: 208 Sudanese refugees were relocated from Abyei Administrative Area to Wedweil Settlement in the first relocation since early August, when relocations were halted due to poor road conditions and insecurity.

Health and Nutrition
Nutrition: out of 968 children under five that were screened for malnutrition across the transit and reception centers, eight per cent were identified as malnourished. This marks the second week in a row when malnutrition rates have fallen below the emergency threshold of 10 per cent. The low rate is most likely a result of the better conditions in which children arrive at the transit and reception centers, and early detection and treatment upon arrival.

Health: health actors in Renk have initiated cholera contingency and preparedness planning following an increase in reported cholera cases in Sudan. A cholera contingency taskforce comprised of key partners and government health officials has been formed. While no cholera cases have been reported at the transit/ reception centres, health partners have been advised to increase monitoring of diarrheal cases and do general outbreak surveillance.

UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and UNICEF, has started a week-long COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Renk targeting all adults. In Renk, there is still limited capacity to manage patients with non-communicable and other chronic diseases due to limited laboratory and diagnostic capacity, and frequent stockout of medication.

Water and Sanitation
Water provision across all sites showed a notable improvement, particularly in Malakal and Renk which provided 21 and 15 litres of water per person per day, respectively. In Renk and other collective sites in the town, water provision ranged between 15 and 23 litres per person per day.

Latrine coverage, nevertheless, remains dire, particularly as more emergency latrines are being decommissioned than constructed. The number of people sharing a latrine, was highest in Paloch, where all latrines for a population of approximately 3,000 have been decommissioned, and construction of new ones, stalled. In Renk and Malakal, the latrine to beneficiaries ratio stood at 1 :161 and 1:113, respectively, with improvements noted in Abyei (1:74) down from 1:300 last week, due to the recent relocation of new arrivals from the site to the refugee settlement in Wedweil. There is thus an urgent need to construct additional emergency latrines or accelerate relocations from transit centres to final destinations, to improve sanitation conditions and reduce the threat of cholera outbreak.

Shelter and NFI
The construction of additional emergency shelters to house new arrivals continued, with 45 new shelters constructed in Maban, and one new communal shelter constructed in Panakuach. Construction work for the new extension site in Renk also resumed, with foundation work completed for 23 of the planned 46 shelters for the site.
There are, nevertheless, still outstanding shelter gaps for the approximate 20,000 individuals being housed in the transit/reception centres.

**IT/ TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

In Renk and Wedwil Settlement, UNHCR continues to provide uninterrupted internet connectivity for UN agencies, NGOs, and affiliated partners. In Renk, a dedicated server room has been established, equipped with air conditioning to ensure system stability amid anticipated high temperatures. In Panakuuch, network connectivity issues are disrupting communication between the border response team and the sub-office radio room.

**Response Plans and Funding Situation**

**Revised Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) – May-December 2023**

- On 4 September, UNHCR and 64 partner organisations published a revised inter-agency Sudan Emergency Regional Refugee Response Plan – May to December 2023, which is appealing for USD 1,004,761,779 to provide essential aid and protection to over 1.8 million people expected to arrive in five neighbouring countries by the end of 2023, fleeing ongoing conflict in Sudan. As of 17 October, total funding of USD 296.2 million has been recorded or 29% of the funding requirements (Refugee Funding Tracker).

- RRP Summary: Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (May-December 2023) – At a Glance.

**Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) – May-December 2023**

- The revised inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Sudan (May-December 2023) requires USD 2.57 billion to help 18 million people. As of 17 October, the total funding for the HRP had reached some USD 858.2 million or 33.5% of the requirements (OCHA FTS).

**Revised UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – May-December 2023**

- On 4 September, UNHCR issued a revised Sudan Emergency Supplementary Appeal (May-December 2023) to reflect increased needs of USD 506,528,613. As of 4 October, the total available funding for the appeal was USD 154.4 million or 30% of the funding requirements (Sudan Situation Funding Update).

**Resources**

- UNHCR's Operational Data Portal (ODP) for the Sudan Situation provides daily updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan’s neighbouring countries.
- UNHCR and IOM Joint Dashboard of arrivals to South Sudan, including data on returnee intentions, onward movements, and numbers and locations of returnees in and around Renk.
- UNHCR Global Focus Sudan Operation page
- UNHCR Sudan Emergency website
- UNHCR's HELP site for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Sudan provides information to individuals seeking information and support inside Sudan (in English and Arabic).
- Egypt Fact Sheet-October 2023
- UNHCR Chad-Influx of refugees from Sudan-October 2023

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