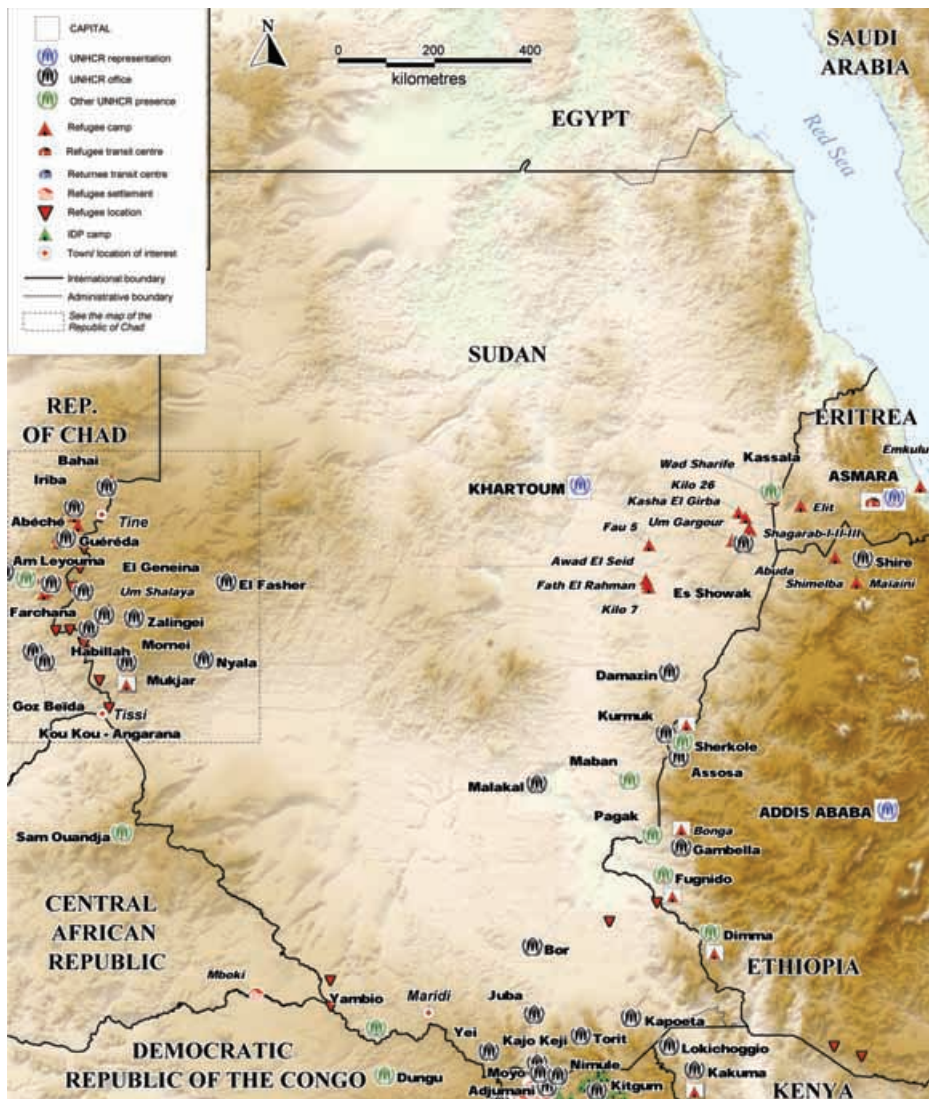


SUDAN



- Some 9,000 refugees fleeing rebel attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) received emergency protection and assistance.
- With the establishment of field offices in El Fasher and Nyala in north and south Darfur in 2008, UNHCR covered the entire region and was able to respond more effectively to the growing protection needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Working environment

Unrest, rainy season, population displacements and the search for peace characterized the working environment for UNHCR in Sudan, forcing the agency to make frequent adjustments to its operational priorities. A steady influx of asylum-seekers to eastern Sudan continued throughout the year. At the same time, more than 68,000 Southern Sudanese refugees and some 5,000 IDPs returned home.

The major concerns identified by participatory assessments were the absence of

Operational highlights

- Asylum-seekers from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia had access to improved refugee status determination (RSD) procedures in eastern Sudan.
- The registration and verification of long-staying refugees was successfully completed in all the 12 active camps in eastern Sudan. As the cessation clause had been invoked over the period 2002-2004 for refugees from Eritrea in Sudan, the legal status of some 70,000 Eritreans remaining in eastern Sudan will now be clarified.
- As envisaged in the comprehensive solutions strategy for the protracted refugee situation in eastern Sudan, most of the refugees in the 12 active camps in the region now have better access to potable water, sanitation and health services.
- Some 68,000 refugees (85 per cent of the target) returned to Southern Sudan in 2008 in safety and dignity and were provided with reintegration packages.

the rule of law, lack of respect for refugees' and returnees' rights, insufficient access to socio-economic services in camps and return areas and difficulties in accessing governmental asylum procedures in Khartoum.

Other issues brought up in the assessments were restrictions on the movement of humanitarian agencies, cattle raids, inter- and intra-community clashes, the presence of mines and other unexploded ordinance, sexual and gender-based violence, and the lack of sufficient protection for specific vulnerable groups.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in 2008 were to contribute to a safer environment in IDP settlements by offering assistance and strengthening protection, in addition to reinforcing the capacity of stakeholders and communities to respond to the needs of vulnerable groups. The Office

also sought to coordinate protection activities for IDPs in Khartoum and offer limited assistance to those with specific protection risks; improve living conditions for the camp-based population; and move from care and maintenance programmes to the pursuit of more comprehensive durable solutions for the long-staying refugees in eastern Sudan.

Furthermore, UNHCR aimed to develop the capacity of Sudan's Commissioner for Refugees to provide protection, registration, documentation and RSD services in line with international standards to asylum-seekers and refugees; support the creation of an environment conducive to voluntary return; and monitor the return process in host communities. Other goals were to protect and assist returning refugees and IDPs in areas where UNHCR is present in Southern Sudan and Blue Nile State and to cooperate with development actors in the transition of the Southern Sudan programme from the emergency to the early recovery phase.

○ Protection and solutions

UNHCR extended its presence in Sudan and continued to assume the lead in protection working groups (PWG). In Khartoum, the legal and physical safety of IDPs continued to be threatened by a widespread lack of documentation, besides difficulties in access to services and economic opportunities as well as local integration. Women in impoverished areas such as IDP sites remained exposed to sexual and gender-based violence. UNHCR protected and assisted vulnerable IDP groups and informed IDP communities of their rights.

UNHCR and its partners, including the Government, worked to develop comprehensive approaches to address the protracted refugee situation in eastern Sudan, including the strategic use of resettlement and local integration. In 2008, the Office focused on improving living standards for some 56,000 camp-based refugees.

The majority of new asylum-seekers in eastern Sudan are young urban Eritreans. Some do not stay in the camps,

but pass through on their way to developed countries. In 2008, the RSD centre was moved from Wad Sharife to Shagarab and provided accommodation for new arrivals.

Border monitoring was reinforced in Red Sea, Kassala and Gedaref States to protect asylum-seekers against *refoulement* and unwarranted detention. UNHCR gained access to detained undocumented refugees and asylum-seekers and worked with the authorities to have them released. In Shagarab, a partner ensured proper reception standards and provided guardians for unaccompanied children seeking asylum.

Southern Sudan saw close to 68,000 Sudanese refugees return home in safety and dignity, 92 per cent of them with UNHCR's assistance. To sustain the returns of refugees and IDPs, UNHCR implemented community-based reintegration projects. These covered the rehabilitation or expansion of hospitals, construction of teacher-training institutes, the building or renovation of classrooms, provision of furniture and scholastic materials, and the drilling of boreholes and maintenance of water-supply systems. Income-generation projects were also implemented.

The strategy for ensuring the sustainability of voluntary repatriation included enhancing the protection capacities of the Government, local authorities and communities. Some 30,000 IDPs indirectly benefited from UNHCR's community based reintegration programmes and more than 9,000 Congolese refugees displaced by rebel attacks. In addition to the aid and protection it offered Congolese refugees who fled to Southern Sudan from the DRC, UNHCR provided protection and assistance to some 1,000 Ethiopian Annuak refugees.

In Blue Nile State, four years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the political and civil service administration has not returned to normal. Socio-economic recovery has been slow and access to basic services such as water, education and health is limited. UNHCR's assistance in 2008 was geared towards improvements in these sectors.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Eritrea	124,800	58,000	49	36
	Chad	41,200	19,900	51	-
	Ethiopia	8,600	4,600	52	14
	Democratic Rep. of the Congo	5,400	5,400	50	42
	Various	1,600	440	47	3
Asylum-seekers	Ethiopia	3,200	30	48	13
	Eritrea	2,400	-	47	6
	Somalia	110	-	-	-
	Various	250	10	34	17
Returnees (refugees)	From Uganda	46,900	42,600	53	-
	From Chad	22,000	2,000	53	-
	From Ethiopia	10,400	10,400	53	-
	From Kenya	9,900	8,500	53	-
	From Egypt	1,000	1,000	53	-
	Various	30	30	53	-
IDPs		1,201,000	1,201,000	50	-
Returnees (IDPs)		21,100	21,100	50	-
Total		1,499,890	1,375,050		

○ *Activities and assistance*

Community services: Some 720 unaccompanied minors, mostly Eritrean, sought asylum in eastern Sudan. A child centre was set up at the Shagarab RSD facility to care for them until suitable solutions were found. In Darfur, 22 women's centres trained some 17,000 women in vocational skills.

Crop production: In Darfur, vegetable seeds were distributed to some 300 households. Nearly 460 farmers also benefited from agricultural training. To enhance prospects for sustainable livelihoods and ensure food security during lean seasons, seeds and tools were distributed to some 1,500 returnees in Belila and Samari and to some 500 IDPs in Kurmuk.

Domestic needs and household support: Some 10,000 solar lamps, 90,000 jerry cans, 10,000 mats and 42,000 sanitary cloths were provided to the refugees, as well as the most vulnerable IDPs in Darfur. All refugees and IDPs returnees who were assisted to return to Southern Sudan or Blue Nile State in 2008 received reintegration packages including non-food items. Vulnerable groups in eastern Sudan also received non-food items.

Education: In Darfur, 93 classrooms in rural areas were constructed or repaired and provided with equipment to support returns. All returning Sudanese refugees and IDPs benefited from long-term reintegration assistance in the form of basic education infrastructure projects. To increase enrolment in Blue Nile State, an eight-room school was built in Samari and a two-room nursery school in Chali. Refugees

returning to other parts of Southern Sudan benefited from the construction of 14 schools.

Food: In Darfur and Southern Sudan all registered refugees received monthly food rations. Food distribution in Darfur also targeted vulnerable groups of IDPs. In eastern Sudan, food distribution targeted only half of the refugee population, as the other half grew much of their own food. All returning Sudanese refugees and IDPs received food upon arrival as part of a reintegration package.

Forestry: In Darfur, three community nurseries were established with some 120,000 seedlings. Some 420 women were taught to make fuel-efficient stoves, and 50 of them were trained to use solar cookers. Each woman in turn trained some 50 households to manage the solar cookers. Reforestation programmes continued in eastern Sudan.

Health and nutrition: Medical referrals were made for some 6,000 complicated cases in the IDP and refugee camps in Darfur. Drug distribution benefited some 10,000 patients. In Southern Sudan ten health facilities were constructed and equipped with drugs and basic supplies. Three training sessions were organized for community health workers on HIV and AIDS and on how to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. Refugees and IDPs who returned to Blue Nile State and people living in Kurmuk benefited from the training of medical staff, the provision of medicines and supplies to Kurmuk Hospital, and the construction of a primary health care unit in Wadaga.



New arrivals from Eritrea at Shagarab reception center, eastern Sudan, live in crowded tents and makeshift huts

Income generation: In Southern Sudan, UNHCR implemented livelihoods projects focusing on agriculture and income generation. The Office also supported vocational training centres and skills-training classes through its partners.

Legal assistance: In eastern Sudan, a new RSD centre was constructed in Shagarab and more than 56,000 camp-based refugees were registered. UNHCR worked to obtain the release of people of concern who had been arrested for unauthorized travel or lack of documents. The Office also employed a local lawyer to represent refugees and asylum-seekers in court. In Southern Sudan, the village profiling database was updated. A total of 80 training sessions on protection topics such as human rights and sexual and gender-based violence were conducted for IDPs and partner agencies in Darfur. Some 364 persons were resettled from Sudan. All Sudanese refugee returnees were registered and received documentation.

Operational support (to agencies): All implementing partners received financial and technical support to implement their programmes.

Sanitation: The construction and repair of latrines and promotion of hygiene improved living conditions in camps in eastern Sudan and way stations in Southern Sudan. In Darfur, over 2,000 family latrines were constructed in villages in order to support returnees and local communities. Hygiene promotion sessions were organized for water committees in the camps.

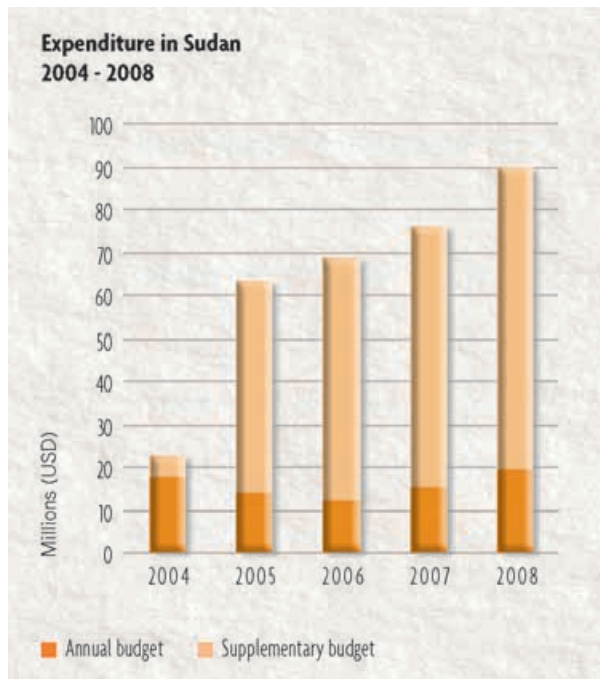
Shelter and other infrastructure: In Darfur, some 2,600 households in IDP camps were supported with shelter materials. In eastern Sudan, UNHCR provided shelter to asylum-seekers awaiting RSD decisions. Some 18,000 refugees from Chad and CAR were accommodated in three camps in west Darfur. A camp was also set up for the 9,000 Congolese refugees.

Transport and logistics: Transport and logistics support were provided for refugees, returnees, asylum-seekers and IDPs.

Water: In Darfur, eight traditional wells were established and 20 hand pumps were repaired in villages to support returnees and local communities. More than 20 water committees were set up. In eastern Sudan, the construction or rehabilitation of water points increased the average amount of potable water from less than 20 litres to 29 litres per day per person for 40,000 camp-based refugees. Returning refugees and IDPs in Southern Sudan benefited from 33 new boreholes. Community water management committees were trained in basic maintenance of the new boreholes and were provided with adequate tools for the purpose.

○ Constraints

The lack of security had a serious impact on UNHCR operations. In Darfur, it made distribution of food and non-food items difficult and complicated protection work.



In Southern Sudan, conflicts associated with disarmament and inter-community clashes delayed project implementation. Addressing the lack of security and facilitating reconciliation and social integration will be essential to the creation of a supportive environment for returnees and residents alike. In order for the recovery process to gain momentum, the judiciary and governance in Southern Sudan will have to be improved as well. The lack of experienced implementing partners was one of the major constraints all over the country.

| Financial information |

Expenditures in Sudan have continued to increase steadily, growing at an average annual rate of 10 per cent since 2004. The operation was well-funded in 2008. However, tight earmarking of funds for specific activities reduced the flexibility of the Office when faced with evolving needs. Some activities, such as protection monitoring in Southern Sudan, remained under-funded. Slow funding for the supplementary programmes caused delays in the implementation of many important reintegration schemes, some of which could not be completed by the end of the year. In eastern Sudan additional resources were made available several times in 2008 to meet pressing needs.

| Organization and implementation |

Under the supervision of the Representation Office in Khartoum, UNHCR operated in Darfur through the sub-office in El Geneina and seven field offices. In eastern Sudan, UNHCR had a sub-office in Es Showak and a field office in Kassala. In Southern Sudan, UNHCR's deputy representative supervised activities in the sub-offices in Juba, Malakal and Yei as well as seven field offices and two field units. UNHCR had a total of 497 staff in Sudan, including 106 international and 375 national personnel and 16 UNVs and/or secondees.

Working with others

UNHCR worked closely with local and international NGOs, other UN agencies and governmental bodies in the three Darfur regions, Southern Sudan, eastern Sudan and Khartoum. It expanded its collaboration with new implementing partners, various ministries and local authorities. Its active participation in the UN Country Team, Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), Common Emergency Response Fund (CERF), ECHO and the Sudan Recovery Fund (SRF) fostered stronger relations with donors, UN agencies and development actors.

Overall assessment

Objectives for 2008 were generally met, despite the prevailing conditions in Darfur and Southern Sudan. UNHCR contributed to a safer environment in IDP settlements and protected the displaced and refugees. Insecurity continued to affect UNHCR's operations, especially with regard to voluntary returns to the south. This forced the Office to limit its protection monitoring and assistance activities to selected areas and focus on lifesaving activities. Comprehensive village assessments guided reintegration and development activities.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government: Commissioner for Refugees, Local Government of El-Gedaref and Kassala State, Ministry of International Cooperation Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare, National Forestry Corporation, State Departments for Health, Water, Agriculture and Education (Sinnar, El Gezira, Kassala), South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

NGOs: Action Africa Help International, Acted, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, *Agence d'Aide à la Coopération*, African Development and Emergency Organization, African Humanitarian Action, Al-Manaar Voluntary Organization, American Refugee Committee, Association for Aid to Refugees, *Association de Coopération et Recherche pour le Développement*, Association of Christian Resource Organization for South Sudan, Church Ecumenical Action in Sudan, Concern Worldwide, Danish Demining Group, Danish Refugee Council, El Sugya Charity Organization, Global Health Foundation, Handicap International, Help Age International, Human Appeal International, International Medical Corps, International Relief and Development, International Rescue Committee, INTERSOS, Intrahealth, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Japan International Volunteer Center, Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children Alliance, Sudan Health Association, Sudan Open Learning Organization, Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation, Peace Winds Japan, Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC), Relief International, *Terre des Hommes*, Triangle, World Vision International

Others: IOM, UN-HABITAT, World Conservation Union

Operational partners

Government: Humanitarian Aid Commission, South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

NGOs: Amel Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation, Catholic Relief Services (USA), *Comitato di Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario*, International Medical Corps, Medair

Others: AU, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*, FAO, ICRC, In Mine Action Services, Medair, OCHA, UNAMID, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNJLC, UNMIS, UNV

Budget, income and expenditure in Sudan (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available ¹	Total expenditure
Annual budget	20,029,908	15,695,048	3,468,740	19,163,788	19,203,086
Return and reintegration of Sudanese refugees SB	50,185,030	38,523,843	11,127,654	49,651,497	45,007,178
Protection and Assistance to Refugees and IDPs in Darfur SB	37,812,372	28,532,887	5,355,866	33,888,753	24,927,426
Iraq Situation Response SB	1,138,315	0	365,066	365,066	95,893
Water and sanitation SB	500,000	0	471,412	471,412	471,412
Anaemia control and prevention SB	280,425	0	146,173	146,173	146,173
Avian and human influenza preparedness SB	150,000	0	145,258	145,258	145,258
Supplementary budget subtotal	90,066,142	67,056,730	17,611,429	84,668,159	70,793,340
Total	110,096,050	82,751,778	21,080,169	103,831,947	89,996,426

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

¹ Total funds available include currency adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Sudan (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' project
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	5,145,886	29,311,498	34,457,384	0
Community services	493,872	1,614,558	2,108,430	356,047
Crop production	198,853	116,553	315,406	50,338
Domestic needs and household support	519,096	1,523,792	2,042,888	4,153
Education	694,875	2,399,189	3,094,064	615,307
Food	4,062	173,992	178,054	13,492
Forestry	571,697	134,740	706,437	233,213
Health and nutrition	2,108,237	1,842,031	3,950,268	1,664,353
Income generation	137,883	131,797	269,680	107,771
Legal assistance	1,492,412	2,404,804	3,897,216	1,356,258
Livestock	0	0	0	260
Operational support (to agencies)	1,278,655	7,551,124	8,829,779	1,683,815
Sanitation	47,673	133,302	180,975	263,854
Shelter and infrastructure	496,270	701,562	1,197,832	249,978
Transport and logistics	519,581	9,359,216	9,878,797	1,308,580
Water	760,928	853,030	1,613,958	360,224
Instalments to implementing partners	2,929,645	7,888,718	10,818,363	(8,267,643)
Subtotal operational activities	17,399,625	66,139,906	83,539,531	0
Programme support	1,803,461	4,653,434	6,456,895	0
Total expenditure	19,203,086	70,793,340	89,996,426	0
Cancellation on prior years' expenditure				(1,352,953)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	8,086,923	23,036,602	31,123,525	
Reporting received	(5,157,278)	(15,147,883)	(20,305,161)	
Balance	2,929,645	7,888,719	10,818,364	
Outstanding 1st January				13,642,437
Reporting received				(8,267,643)
Refunded to UNHCR				(619,218)
Currency adjustment				162,726
Outstanding 31st December				4,918,302