



European
Union



EU and UNHCR joint event on the regional impact of the war in Sudan
“Eyes on Sudan’s neighbours: prospects for strengthening localised response”

Co-Chairs’ summary

10 April 2025

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) jointly organised an event on the regional impact of the war in Sudan on 10 April 2025. The event featured a high-level panel with refugee hosting governments followed by a discussion with key regional representatives, donors, humanitarian actors and refugees from Sudan. It brought together 270 participants online.

The [Sudan crisis](#) is the world’s largest displacement emergency, with over **15 million** now displaced, including over 12.6 million people forced to flee within Sudan and across its borders since April 2023 due to the ongoing conflict. Of these figures, some **4 million** people have fled Sudan. Sudanese are now the largest displaced population outside their country in Africa. Refugees are primarily seeking safety in seven Refugee Response Plan (RRP) countries: [Central African Republic](#), [Chad](#), [Egypt](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Libya](#), [South Sudan](#), and [Uganda](#). Despite their generosity, host countries face overwhelming pressures on their economies, infrastructure, and essential services.

This joint EU-UNHCR event aimed to underscore the **regional dimension** of the Sudan crisis and highlight the achievements and challenges of host governments, donors, and humanitarian actors, including local civil society.

Participants presented the impact of the Sudan crisis on their national systems, host communities, and humanitarian operations; showcased response efforts, including through Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges and government policy commitments; highlighted key achievements, operational challenges, and urgent needs, including funding; discussed how international donors and partners could strengthen support for national responses and facilitate longer-term solutions through a nexus approach and; identified pathways to enhance the humanitarian response despite existing constraints.

This event and outcome recommendations will inform discussions at the **15 April London Sudan Conference** co-hosted by the United Kingdom, the European Union, France, Germany and the African Union, helping to ensure that the regional dimension is effectively represented.

Outcomes – suggested areas of focus:

As more people continue to be displaced by the conflict in Sudan, the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) will continue prioritising the delivery of life-saving assistance and protection, including emergency shelter, registration/documentation, relocation from border areas to safer locations, psychosocial support, clean water, food, healthcare and education. Refugee hosting states have generously welcomed those forced to flee, including by adopting legal and policy frameworks enabling inclusive responses, but resources and capacity are overstretched. Humanitarian programmes across the refugee hosting countries rely on sustained international support to respond.

In 2025, humanitarian partners participating in the Sudan RRRP will need US\$1.8 billion to provide life-saving assistance to 4.8 million people including refugees, returnees, local host communities as well as third country nationals in the seven neighbouring countries.

To improve the effectiveness of the response and ensure the dignity of displaced persons, participants emphasised the need for the humanitarian and international community as well as hosting states to:

- ***Reinforce efforts to scale up the response*** in a manner that reflects the urgency of the crisis, including by pooling resources and enhancing coordination between government entities, UN agencies, international NGOs and local responders to ensure an effective and timely aid delivery, as well as prompting registration and access to documentation. Relocations of refugees and returnees should be carried out on a voluntary basis, in dignity and in safety.
- ***Ensure meaningful engagement of local organisations,*** including grassroots organisations, to inform the response and shape efforts to find more predictable and inclusive solutions to the plight of refugees. Such structures have often shown how they may be the first and most effective responders in constrained situations. This includes support to national and local actors, including refugee-led and women-led organisations, to identify, design and implement interventions that address the challenges refugees and returnees face, and to strengthen their capacity on project management, financial accountability and transparency as needed. The inclusion of host communities in refugee and returnee programmes should be continued and enhanced to promote social cohesion.
- ***Encourage continued engagement of development actors and private sector*** to complement humanitarian assistance, strengthen national systems and support host governments in their commitments to better include refugees in national services and policies, to enhance refugees' resilience and self-reliance, and to find durable solutions including for the sustainable reintegration of returnees. Ensure appropriate linkages with national and local development plans to avoid costly parallel systems, foster peaceful relations between host communities and those displaced, and create economic opportunities, improving the lives of entire communities, and contributing to stability in the region. All stakeholders should also further facilitate the economic integration of refugees, capitalising on their skills. Finally, diversifying funding sources would also ensure the focus of humanitarian resources on those most in need of life-saving assistance.
- ***Encourage increased and more predictable funding*** and simplified funding processes to allow effective and timely responses to rapidly changing needs.
- ***Enhance visibility of the regional dimension of the Sudan crisis*** and keep it high on the international agenda, both in high-level discussions and the media, and amplify the voices of Sudanese refugees and their hosts.