

SUDAN SITUATION

28 April 2023



UNHCR and partners in South Sudan have reinforced their presence at the border to assist new arrivals of refugees and returnees.
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Operational Context

Security and Political Developments

Clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continue in Sudan. The humanitarian situation in Sudan continues to deteriorate.

On 28 April, members of the Trilateral Mechanism and the Quad [welcomed](#) the announcement by the SAF and the RSF to extend the current ceasefire for an additional 72 hours and call for its full implementation:

On 26 April, the UN's Special Representative for Sudan [called on](#) the rival military factions to “fully adhere” to the agreed 72-hour ceasefire amid increasing concern at reports of inter-communal violence and attacks in the West Darfur region.

Following reports of jailbreaks in Khartoum and other parts of Sudan, members of the former regime ousted in 2019 were reported to have escaped from prison. Ahmed Haroun is wanted by the ICC for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. SAF announced that former President Omar a-Bashir, who was imprisoned in Khartoum's Kober prison, was being held in a military hospital under police custody.

There are fuel shortages and prices of basic goods and services, especially transportation, have skyrocketed due to disruption of the supply chains. On 26 April, WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, [said](#) that it expects the number of deaths in Sudan to increase due to outbreaks, lack of access to food and water, and disruptions to essential health services, including immunization.

On 24 April, UN Secretary-General António Guterres' made [remarks](#) on the Sudan situation to the UN Security Council where he declared that 'the United Nations is not leaving Sudan' and called on the Security Council Members to urge parties to end violence and restore order.

On 24 April, the US Department of State [announced](#) a nationwide ceasefire between the SAF the RSF, starting at midnight on April 24, to last for 72 hours. During this period, the United States urged the SAF and RSF to immediately and fully uphold the ceasefire.

Staff Presence and Safety

All UNHCR international staff have been evacuated from Darfur as of 28 April as part of coordinated UN movements.

UNHCR has undertaken a reduction of footprint for staff in Gedaref and Kassala, with critical international and most national staff remaining. Similar movements to reduce the staff footprint in White Nile, Blue Nile, and Kordofans are under discussion.

While all UNHCR international and national staff are unharmed and accounted for, we remain extremely concerned about national staff in areas affected by the fighting including Khartoum and Darfur.

UNHCR is exploring all means to increase support for national staff throughout the country in coordination with the UN Country Team.

Regional Overview

UNHCR is working with partners on contingency planning and the development of inter-agency Refugee Response Plans plans for arrivals to Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt and Libya, working with host governments and partners to undertake preparedness activities, put in place and strengthn border monitoring, assess the needs of the newly arrived, and undertake a joint response.

On 26 April, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, [called on](#) the international community to urgently provide adequate resources to support UNHCR efforts. He is very concerned that the ongoing, brutal conflict in Sudan is now forcing tens of thousands of people to leave their homes in search of safety both within the country and across its borders.

A UNHCR level 1 emergency for Chad, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan (Sudan situation) was declared on 26 April.

Sudan Situation Overview (as of 28 April 2023)

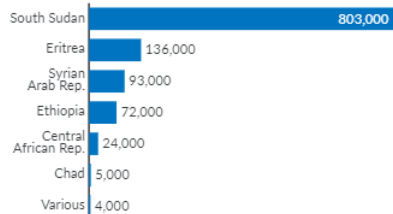
Following the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan on 15 April 2023, **growing numbers of refugees, returnees and third country nationals** have been crossing into neighbouring countries.

As of 28 April, the most significant cross border movements in the region have been Sudanese refugees arriving in Chad, mixed movements into Egypt, and South Sudanese returning to South Sudan. Sudanese refugees have also arrived in the Central African Republic (CAR).

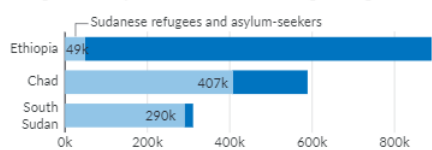
Limited new arrivals are currently being reported in Ethiopia amongst which small numbers of refugees previously hosted by Sudan and Ethiopia. Preparedness efforts for new arrivals are underway together with the Government and partners.

UNHCR has not yet registered any refugees arriving in Libya.

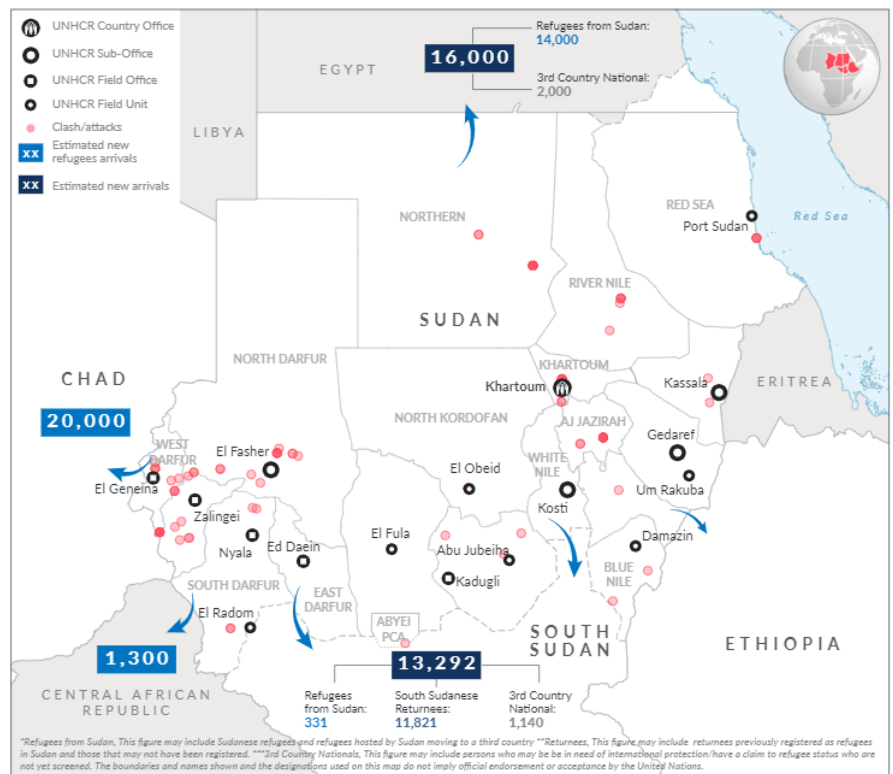
Refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan by country of origin
1.13 million existing refugee population in Sudan



Refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan neighboring countries



Sources: UNHCR, IOM, MFA, South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission



SUDAN

Situation and Operational Response

On 27 April, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Abdou Dieng, speaking from Port Sudan, told reporters in New York that senior leadership would be returning to Khartoum, as soon as the situation allows. The UN and partners are establishing a core team in Port Sudan, which will be responsible for overseeing humanitarian operations in the country and negotiating humanitarian access with de facto authorities.

On 28 June, UNHCR's Representative in Sudan, Axel Bisshop, briefed press in Geneva from Port Sudan, a summary of which can be found here: [UNHCR warns forcibly displaced are facing worsening risks in Sudan](#).

New displacement

UNHCR has received reports that around 33,000 refugees have fled Khartoum to find safety in the refugee camps in White Nile State, 2,000 to the camps in Gedaref, and 5,000 to Kassala since the crisis started.

Information received from UNHCR partner the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) indicates that there are presently 3,000 – 3,500 IDPs and refugees in Madani spread across 16-18 different locations, primarily from Khartoum and mainly women and children. The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has provided a higher figure of 8,000 (6,500 in host communities and 1,500 in public spaces like schools).

Most of the displacement locations in Madani, due to their nature and limited resources, are considered transit sites, where IDPs/refugees enter, stay for a few days to rest and receive food/water, then move to other areas outside Madani.

All the locations are currently being managed by community committees and community-based initiatives in Madani. According to NRC's preliminary assessment findings, priority basic needs include food, access to water, and household Non-Food Items (NFIs), including mattresses, blankets, cooking fuel and utensils, as well as hygiene supplies.

HAC further indicates that 25,000 individuals, both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, have passed through Madani to other states, such as Gedaref, Kassala, and Port Sudan (Red Sea State). It is thought that the group is composed of about 75% IDPs and 25% refugees, mainly of South Sudanese origin but also including Ethiopians and Eritreans.

Update by Location

In Khartoum, the refugee hotline continues to function and will be strengthened with support from additional UNHCR protection staff to improve communication and counselling lines for refugees.

In West Darfur, widespread looting of UN agency premises was reported in El Geneina with several agencies affected, including UNHCR.

In North Darfur, the situation remained calm but tense in El Fasher, with concerns that the situation in West Darfur might spill over to North Darfur. Some markets were reportedly open, guarded by military and police.

Another round of distribution of critical Core Relief Items (CRIs) to health centers was successful in El Fasher. Two additional health centers received plastic sheets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, blankets, solar lamps, and tents. The RSF continue to occupy the UNHCR warehouse but allowed for safe access to the CRIs. The RSF remained cooperative but warned of the possibility of looting once the soldiers rotate their posts.

In Kordofan: Clashes between the RSF and SAF were reported in West Kordofan. An attempted prison break was reported in Kadugli, South Kordofan.

In Gedaref, there were reports that additional refugees from Khartoum arrived in the camps according to the Sudanese Commissioner for Refugees (COR). UNHCR is working with COR to verify these reports and provide necessary support.

Food remains a major challenge for refugees as discussions with WFP and partners on distribution modalities are ongoing. The situation in the camps is calm now following reports that some refugees in Um Rakuba attempted to break into the WFP warehouse looking for food.

In Kassala, arrivals in the camps continue with some people sheltering with relatives and others with community leaders who continue to mobilize community members for contributions. Lifesaving activities are ongoing in the camps with the active but limited presence of partners.

In Blue Nile, the situation remained calm in Camp 6. Health services continued to be provided by refugee health workers. However, there is an acute need for food, the distribution of which is still being discussed. The Kurmuk locality commissioner reported that some South Sudanese were at the border and their crossing into Ethiopia was being facilitated. Based on information from authorities in Kurmuk, mainly Third Country Nationals (TCN) have crossed the border to Ethiopia. UNHCR continues to receive information about IDPs who have come into the state from Khartoum and are sheltering with relatives. Shortages of fuel and food are reported. A state of emergency has been extended in Damazine.

In White Nile, a state of emergency was declared on 26 April. Local authorities are concerned about the situation in Rabak and Kosti areas following the significant increase in refugee movements from Khartoum to the state. COR committed to ensure refugee safety and security.

The security situation remains under control with no reports of shooting so far. A dramatic shortage of fuel is reported in the state with most filling stations not operational. Consequently, the prices of public transportation and basic commodities are increasing rapidly. As more people come in from Khartoum to Kosti, a huge gap in accommodation is observed.

SOUTH SUDAN

Situation and Operational Response

New arrivals

State	County	Border Point	#Households	#Individuals	Male	Female
Upper Nile	Renk*	Wunthow/Juda	594	3,712	1,769	1,943
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Awiel North	Kiir-adem	100	466	180	286
	Awiel East	Majok-yithio	9	22	11	11
Western Bahr el Ghazal	Raja	Timsha	9	28	11	17
Abyei Region	Abyei Region	Abyei Amieth	1	2	1	1
New arrivals on 27 April			713	4,230	1,972	2,258
As of 27 April, the cumulative figures of arrival			1,992	13,258		

* Data source: The table above represents a summary of reported figures from UNHCR and partners, subject to ongoing coordination with IOM in consolidating figures for joint reporting.

** The figures only capture those who approached UNHCR and partners for recording/humanitarian assistance, which is significantly lower than the actual return/arrivals from Sudan.

*** Some discrepancy may exist between the table above and the narrative updates below for reasons including different cut-off hours. The figures may also be adjusted due to retroactively reported figures due to reporting delays from border points/partners.

In Renk, an increasing number of vulnerable returnees have been stuck at the border for several days, including elderly and disabled individuals, pregnant women, female heads of households with young children and large families. On 26 April, UNHCR and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) started the transfer of these individuals to the transit centre (a total of 828 individuals/165 households). Several people managed to contact their relatives and moved on from the transit centre to their next destination point. The aim is to have returnees stay in the transit centre for up to three days, while they contact relatives and communities to assist with their onward travel. Systems for vulnerability assessments and triage are being established.

A joint UNHCR and Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) protection border monitoring mission was undertaken on 26 April to the Greater Maban border points to assess the impact of the Sudan conflict and border movement. No security incidents around the location, nor any movement of people or new arrivals from Sudan in relation to the conflict were reported. However, spontaneous/pendular movers continue to come to and from the Sudanese refugee camps.

On 26 April, 20 staff of NGO Partners (ACTED, LWF, Relief International and Save the Children) arrived in Renk. UNHCR in Maban and partner organisations will coordinate interventions, which will be guided by inter-agency coordination at Juba level.

In Aburoc (Fashoda County), 13 new arrivals (2 households) arrived from South Kordofan. This makes total number of returnees through Malakal border entry points since the start of the conflict at 78 individuals (17 households). No arrivals through other border entry points have been recorded.

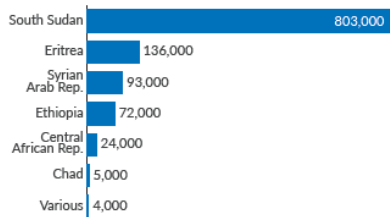
UNHCR partner the Humanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC) conducted a border monitoring visit to El Kuek of Manyo County. The security situation in this area is stable and no refugee returnees have been recorded through Kuek to Kaka/Wadakona. The Payam administrator cited the reason as the lack of vehicles due to bad roads condition, which is why the returnees prefer to pass through Renk.

On 26 April, a total of 31 individuals arrived in Malakal Protection of Civilian sites (likely via Renk border point). In case new arrivals continue, it will put strain on resources in these sites that are already over-congested.

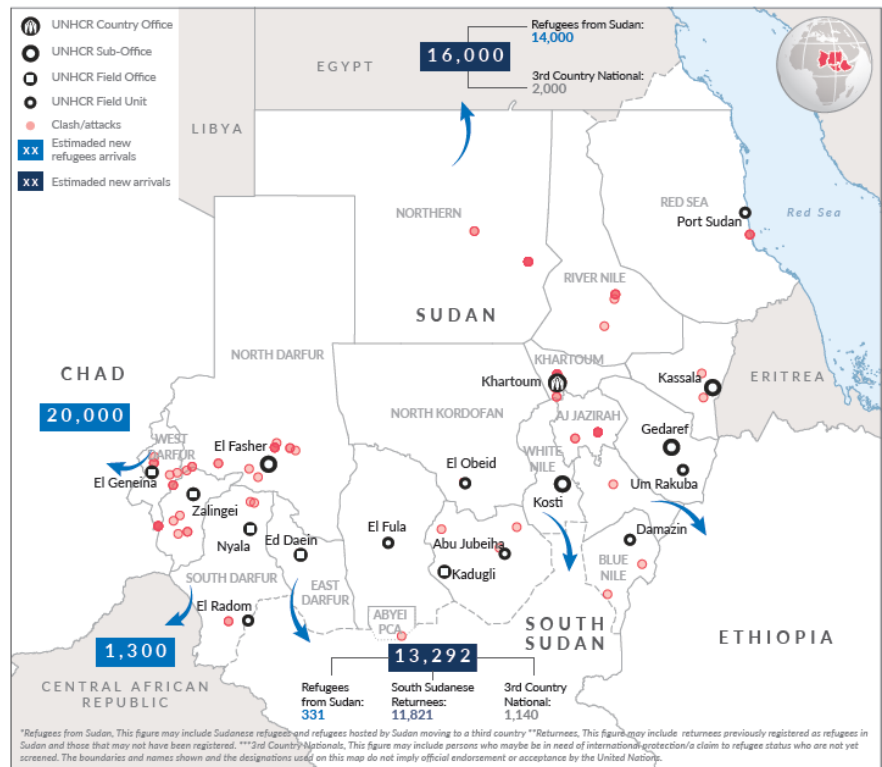
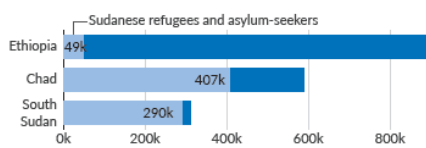
Staff from UNHCR Juba are on mission in Wau to meet with local government officials and assess border points in Raja County.

Following the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan on 15 April 2023, growing numbers of refugees, returnees and third country nationals have been crossing into neighbouring countries. As of 28 April, the most significant cross border movements in the region have been Sudanese refugees arriving in Chad, mixed movements into Egypt, and South Sudanese returning to South Sudan. Sudanese refugees have also arrived in the Central African Republic (CAR). Limited new arrivals are currently being reported in Ethiopia amongst which small numbers of South Sudanese refugees previously hosted by Sudan have arrived at the border, and there are other secondary movement to neighbouring countries of refugees previously hosted by Sudan. UNHCR has not yet registered any refugees arriving in Libya.

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan by country of origin
1.13 million existing refugee population in Sudan



Refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan neighboring countries



CHAD

Situation and operational response

The prefect of Dar Tama, in the area of Guereda (Wadi Fira region), held a meeting on 26 April with humanitarian actors intervening in his area, mainly CNARR, UNHCR, WFP and NGOs. The main objective of this meeting was to share information on the current situation in Sudan and give some orientations. He announced a field mission in the coming days of the new governor of Wadi Fira as the Chadian government is preparing for a large influx of Sudanese asylum seekers in this region. The prefect's main recommendations during this meeting were: greater security for humanitarians through, among other things, the strengthening of communications with the administrative authorities; strengthening the capacity of the Guéréda health district, in anticipation of a possible influx; relocating the 2,700 people who had decided to remain at the border since 2022 to the camps; and sensitizing refugees in the camps to avoid any movement to the border.

Nearly 7,500 individuals (2,093 households) were counted during the fixing in the sites of Koufroun (4,053), Midjiguilta (3,196), and Diza Berte (245). Starting 27 April, the registration team will begin a pre-registration exercise. UNHCR's protection service has also identified 481 people with special needs in these sites, including 33 pregnant women.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) has conducted medical screening of 244 people at the site of Koufroun including 143 Sudanese asylum-seekers and 58 nationals. Some 3,600 children were vaccinated against measles by Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF).

A 20m² water truck has been positioned in Koufroun since 24 April. Water distribution begun on 26 April and will continue on a regular basis in the three sites. CARE will begin construction of 90 latrines in the coming days.

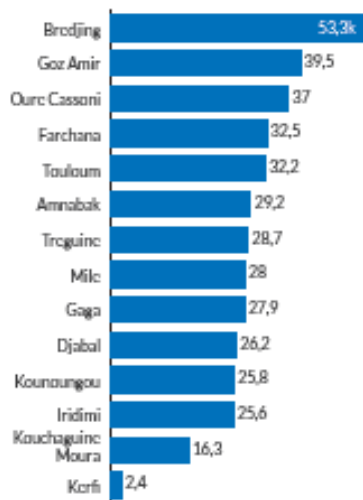
WFP began distributing food on 26 April and that is set to continue throughout the three sites.

On 27 April, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Martin Griffiths [announced](#) an allocation of USD 3 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to urgently respond to some 20,000 new arrivals in Chad from Sudan.

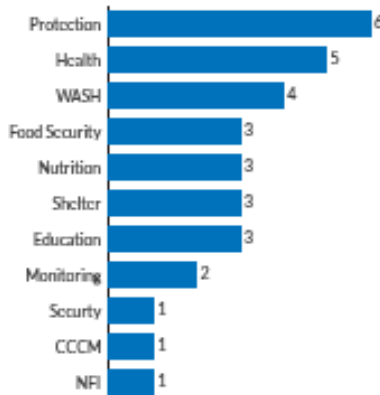
Context

In April 2023, the UNHCR began registering an **influx of Sudanese refugees** at border entry points in eastern Chad, coming from Western Darfur after military confrontations in the region. UNHCR teams on the ground in the provinces of Ennedi Est, Wadi Fira, Ouaddai, and Sila are working with the CNARR, local authorities, and partners to continue **monitoring and responding to the situation, as well as mobilizing resources** to provide life-saving assistance services to new arrivals.

Refugee population in existing camps - in thousands



Partner presence by sector

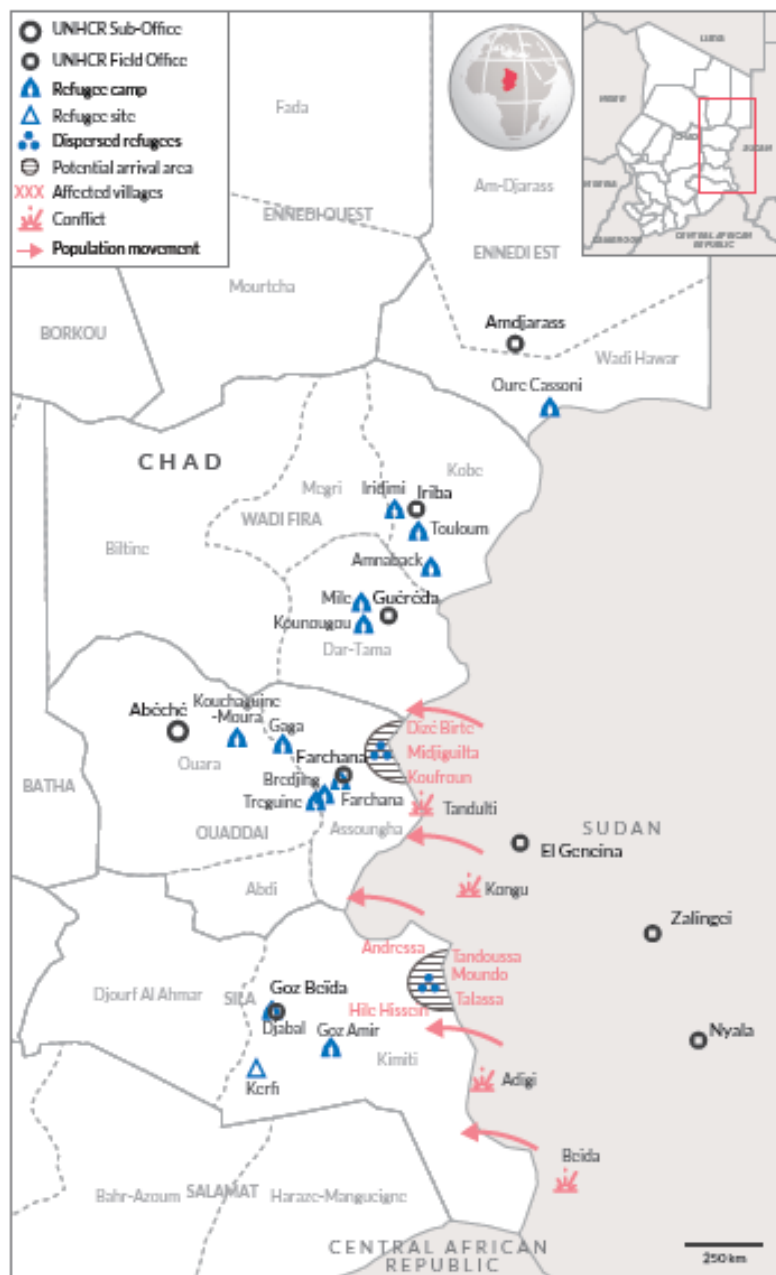


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Data sources: UNHCR, CNARR, OCHA, OSM

Key figures



Situation map



ETHIOPIA

Situation and Operational Response

New arrivals/Population movements

As of 27 April, some 80 Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers have crossed into Ethiopia through Metema (Amhara region), all of whom have requested to be transferred to Addis to join their relatives.

On 26 April, the first group of 11 Eritrean refugees crossed Kurmuk border, in Benishangul Gumuz Region (BSGR). UNHCR is in the process of screening the new arrivals and registration was conducted by RRS and UNHCR on 27 April. Currently, the new arrivals are accommodated at the Kurmuk Immigration Center.

Border authorities at Kurmuk entry point informed UNHCR and RRS that the number of people arriving on the Sudanese side of the border at Kurmuk from conflict areas in Sudan has been increasing daily: an estimated number of 800 people are now in Kurmuk town (Sudan side).

UNHCR and RRS conduct daily missions to Kurmuk border crossing point, where Zonal Authorities have made available a plot of land for the establishment of a transit center, approximately 5-6 km from Metema town.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Contingency Planning and Preparedness

On 25 April, the International Medical Corps (IMC) in CAR reported that over 700 persons had arrived at Am Dafock border from four villages in Sudan. The group is mostly composed of women and children who speak Sango (CAR language), Arabic or Fulani. The group has settled in a school in front of the health Center. The market has been closed for three days and food supplies are not available in the city. Women participating in group discussions have asked for water supply, food, shelter/NFI kits, and access to health care.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for CAR and the Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) held an emergency meeting with the Prefect of Vakaga, who asked for actors to mobilize for an emergency response.

On 27 April, the Commission for Refugees (CNR) reported a total number of new arrivals of 1,300 individuals (260 households) in Am Dafock.

UNHCR, in collaboration with other UN agencies and partners, is leading the multi-sectoral Refugee Protection Working Group to coordinate planning and interventions.

On 28 April, UNHCR and CNR will visit Vakaga to assess the situation of new Sudanese arrivals reported in the town of Am Dafock and identify needs for a rapid response. This advance field mission will allow the CAR government to have a first evaluation of the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum as well as confirm numbers of arrivals.

Protection and registration activities in the border area with Sudan will start with a UNHCR (international staff/protection and registration) and CNR presence as of 3 May. The coordination of refugee protection will be maintained by UNHCR and CNR at the national (Bangui) and local (Birao) level, while the overall coordination will be including OCHA and the sectors based on the mixed situation model.

EGYPT

According to the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, more than 16,000 individuals have accessed the Sudan-Egypt border as of 26 April, through two border points: Qastal (920 km south of Cairo) and Arqeen (895 km south of Cairo). Reports from those who have arrived in Egypt or who are still at the border speak of different challenges facing those trying to flee the conflict including safety of roads, high fuel and transportation prices, and many people stranded on the Sudanese side without food or water waiting to cross and be processed.

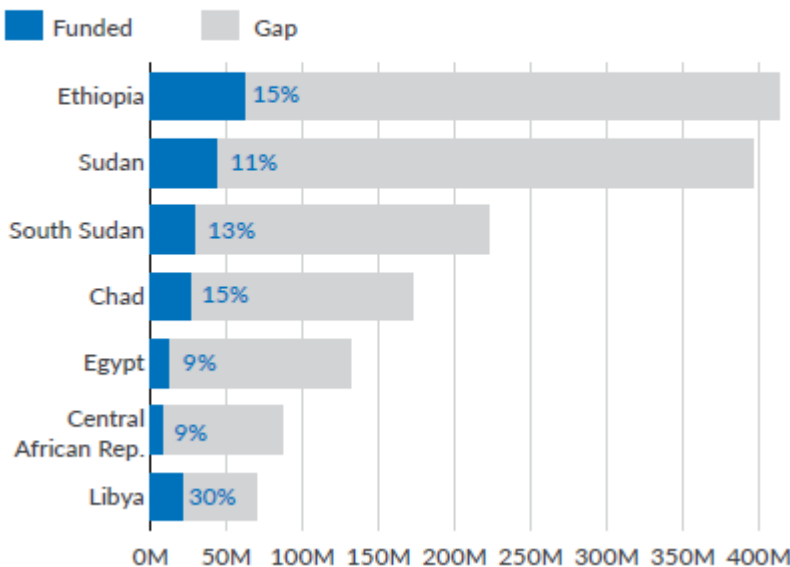
UNHCR, the UN Resident Coordinator, and the UN Country Team are collaborating with the Government of Egypt, the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) and other partners to provide life-saving assistance at the border. This includes supporting ERC to scale up the range of services they are able to offer at the border, including the distribution of water and hygiene items, transportation and medical assistance.

UNHCR is leading a UN inter-agency team that is in Aswan ready to deploy to the border to conduct a rapid needs assessment to establish the scope of the current and required emergency response at the border. The UN team will meet with the Egyptian Red Crescent and local authorities to better understand the situation on the ground.

The second phase will consist of the development of an emergency response plan for the Sudan situation in Egypt, in collaboration with all stakeholders.

UNHCR Budget and Funding

Budget requirements and funding for Sudan and surrounding countries | in million US\$



Note: Budget requirements associated with this new crisis are still being determined. UNHCR's operations in Sudan and neighboring countries are already severely underfunded as indicated above.

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