

## East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region

April – June 2024



Sudanese refugee Hawa, stands at her shelter in the Kurmuk transit centre in the Benishangul-Gumuz region of northwestern Ethiopia. The mother-of-ten fled the violence in Sudan with her children and 80-year-old mother. © UNHCR/Tiksa Negeri

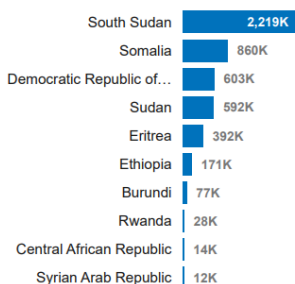
### KEY FIGURES (AS OF 30 JUNE 2024)

**5.4M** Refugees and Asylum-seekers

**20.9M** Internally Displaced Persons

**240K** Refugee Returnees in 2024

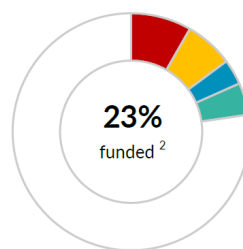
### REFUGEES IN THE EHAGL REGION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



### FUNDING UPDATE (AS OF 30 JUNE 2024)

**USD 2.1 Billion**

2024 financial requirements for the EHAGL region



### EAST HORN AND GREAT LAKES

as of 30 June 2024

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

## OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

As of 30 June 2024, the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) region was host to 5.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers. Additionally, there were 20.8 million internally displaced in the region as a result of conflict and climate related disasters. Some 230,000 refugees have been documented as having returned to their countries of origin this year.

It has been over a year since the start of the conflict in Sudan and the humanitarian situation continues to worsen, with the displacement figures growing week after week and spreading throughout the region. The displacement caused by the war is now at more than 10 million people, including more than 7 million new IDPs and at least 2 million refugees and returnees in neighboring and nearby countries, constituting a complex protection crisis and the largest humanitarian emergency in the region.

El Niño-triggered heavy rains and severe flooding have devastated different locations in the EHAGL region, leading to mass displacement and impacting hundreds of thousands of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities. Even though flooding is an annual phenomenon, this year has been particularly challenging. With above-normal rainfall forecasted from June to September 2024, the situation is expected to dramatically worsen, posing a grave risk to millions more by year's end. Displaced populations are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of these extreme weather events, exacerbating their already precarious living conditions. This crisis unfolds amid ongoing conflict in Sudan, compounding instability and suffering across the region and beyond.

While emergency coordination platforms and contingency plans are in place to prepare for and respond to the floods, securing resources is crucial to sustain the current response and activate contingency plans in anticipation of further flooding in the second half of 2024. On 28 June, UNHCR launched a [flood appeal](#) for nearly \$40 million to assist and protect 5.6 million refugees, returnees, internally displaced people and local communities in Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, South Sudan and Sudan.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### SITUATIONAL UPDATES

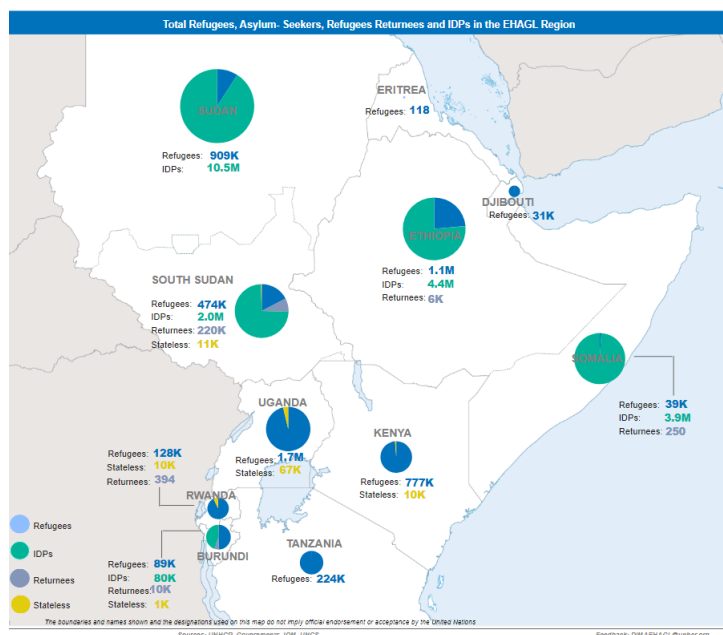
**SUDAN SITUATION:** Since the devastating conflict broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in mid-April 2023, the magnitude of displacement within Sudan and into neighbouring and other countries is growing with two new hosting countries – Libya and Uganda – now also part of the revised [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) launched in June 2024.

As the conflict has continued to evolve with constant associated displacement, the Sudan situation is one of the largest displacement, humanitarian and protection crises in the world today. By June 2024, 10 million people have been forcibly displaced. Just over 2 million people have fled to neighbouring Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan and Uganda, including refugees, returnees, and third-country nationals, with 7.7 million newly internally displaced within Sudan and 220,000 refugees who self-relocated within Sudan. The latest figures are available [here](#).

In May, Al Fasher in Sudan's North Darfur State became a flashpoint as fighting escalated. Bombings and targeted attacks on densely populated areas have killed civilians, injured thousands, and damaged critical civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and IDP camps. Up to [143,000 people](#) may have been forcibly displaced by the escalation of conflict. The fighting has [disrupted](#) aid deliveries with trucks loaded with supplies stuck at the Chad border and along the route from Port Sudan.

Sudan is facing the worst levels of acute food insecurity ever recorded by the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#) in the country with 25.6 million people facing crisis or worse conditions from June to September 2024. Locations like Darfur, Kordofan and even Khartoum are at risk of famine, compounding an already dire humanitarian situation caused by conflict, severe human rights violations and destruction. UN leaders have [called](#) for immediate and decisive action to prevent a hunger crisis that will affect millions, the most vulnerable being the hardest hit.

Most new arrivals from Sudan to neighbouring countries arrive in a poor nutritional state. In addition to food and water, they need shelter, health care, sanitation facilities, basic protection, psychosocial support and education for their children. As the rainy season starts again, especially in the Central African Republic, Chad and South Sudan, with some of the worst flooding in years anticipated in the latter, the logistics and cost of reaching people in border locations and even existing refugee settlements becomes extremely difficult.





At the tragic [one-year mark](#) of the Sudan crisis on 15 April 2024, donors pledged 2 billion Euros at a conference in Paris, co-hosted by France, Germany and the European Union. However, despite the continued displacement crisis and looming famine, by 28 June, funding reported for the Regional Refugee Response Plan for Sudan stood at just 19 per cent of the requirements.

The [consequences of underfunding](#) are many. Food aid is impacted in most hosting countries and the food basket provided to refugees could only partially meet the recommended dietary needs, leading to severe food insecurity among refugees and exacerbating harmful coping strategies to meet the nutritional needs of families. For example, in Ethiopia refugees receive 60 per cent of their rations, in Chad, 57 per cent, in Sudan South Sudan, just half, and in Uganda, depending on the level of vulnerability, some refugees receive 60 per cent of food rations, other 30 per cent and 4 per cent receive none.

**SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION:** By the end of June 2024, countries in the EHAGL Region were host to more than 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees. The majority are hosted in Uganda (41.6 per cent) while 29.1 per cent are hosted in Sudan, 18.6 per cent in Ethiopia, 8.2 per cent in Kenya and 2.4 per cent in DRC. In addition, over 31,000 South Sudan refugees were recorded as new arrivals by the end of the second quarter.

UNHCR issued its latest [position](#) on returns to South Sudan in May 2024 superseding the previous advisory on returns of October 2021. Given the complex security, human rights and humanitarian environment in South Sudan, UNHCR considers that persons fleeing the country are likely to be in need of international refugee protection in accordance with Article 1(2) of the 1969 OAU Convention. Forced repatriations should not occur except in very specific circumstances as laid out in the advisory.

The South Sudan Regional Response Plan with an inter-agency appeal of USD 1.4 billion is currently 17 per cent funded. The response in the countries - DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda continue to struggle with inadequate funding, some aspects of which are highlighted in the country updates.

In light of the discussions around elections in South Sudan at the end of the year, the South Sudan RRP countries continue to update their contingency plans in preparedness to respond to an influx.



*Zamzam Ahmat Kouyouka and her two daughters fled Khartoum following the death of her husband in the ongoing conflict. Following a harrowing and arduous journey, they reached Djabal refugee camp, in eastern Chad. © UNHCR/Eugene Sibomana*

## COUNTRY UPDATES

**BURUNDI:** As of June 2024, Burundi was host to 89,323 registered refugees and asylum-seekers and had received a total of 243,900 Burundian refugee returnees. Of the 89,323 refugees and asylum seekers, 98.8 per cent are from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 1.1 per cent from Rwanda and 0.1 per cent from other countries of origin. 33,050 reside in urban areas and 56,273 in camps.

UNHCR and partners have been facilitating the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees since 2017. Most of the more than 243,900 Burundian refugees recorded as having returned by the end of June 2024 returned from Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic

Republic of the Congo, Kenya, and other countries. These returns take place under the framework of the Tripartite Agreements between the Government of Burundi, the Governments of countries of asylum, and UNHCR, with all parties having committed to respect the voluntary nature of these returns.

Upon the arrival of returnees in their province of return, UNHCR and partners conduct follow-up activities to review their level of reintegration. Monitoring data indicates a relatively low ability of returnees to access essential social services, which makes some refugees reluctant to return. Despite efforts by the Government of Burundi, with support from humanitarian and development actors, access to housing, land, and employment remain significant challenges. For example, over 71 per cent of returnees are not satisfied with their level of food security. Nevertheless, there have been improvements in the security and justice sectors (land dispute resolution) compared to previous years.

During the rainy season of September 2023 to May 2024, more than 298,000 people were affected by torrential rains, floods, landslides and the overflowing of Lake Tanganyika due to the El Niño phenomenon (54 per cent are women). These disasters destroyed or partially damaged homes, classrooms, health facilities, roads, crops, water networks and electrical installations.

UNHCR facilitated the transport of 912 persons in June and cumulatively 2,373 from Gatumba flooded area to find refuge at the Mubimbi site in Bujumbura and supported women and children at risk (5 years and below) with clothing.

UNHCR supported 37 urban refugee households (174 persons) in Rumonge with cash transfers for rent and multi-purpose assistance. Cumulatively, 151 households (824) individuals have been assisted.

**DJIBOUTI:** As of 30 June 2024, Djibouti was host to 31,500 refugees and asylum seekers mainly from Somalia, Ethiopia, Yemen and Eritrea. 85 per cent live in the refugee villages of Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl.

From 14 April and over a period of 25 days, Djibouti conducted the third edition of the [General Population and Housing Census \(RGPH-3\)](#) throughout the country. This exhaustive census was also extended to the refugee and asylum-seeker population in the country. The last census was carried out in 2009. In addition to the four initial commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2019, the inclusion of refugees in the general census is one of the two new commitments recently made by the Republic of Djibouti at the GRF in December 2023. The strategic objective of this census is to provide the country with up-to-date data on the size and characteristics of its population in order to plan and monitor the evaluation of development policies, programs and projects.

In order to familiarize children with their rights, UNHCR's partner, Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement (CIAUD), continued to organize regular awareness-raising sessions. Between April and June, 175 children between the ages of 7 and 10 were informed of their fundamental rights. At the same time, 90 adults were sensitized on child protection.

In Djibouti City, UNHCR devotes time to the weekly reception and follow-up of individual cases of refugees and asylum-seekers with complaints. Reception at refugee sites is carried out by its partner, CIAUD, for child protection, community mobilization and care of people with special needs. Between April and June, 149 individual cases were received and provided with necessary counselling. The complaints mainly concerned requests for resettlement to a third country, assistance with basic needs, requests for newborn babies, medical assistance, resumption of Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) and renewal of identity documents.

**ETHIOPIA:** As of 30 June 2024, Ethiopia hosted 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers — mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. Along with partners, UNHCR is providing protection counselling, healthcare, and lifesaving humanitarian assistance to new arrivals in need of international protection. UNHCR continues to support and advocate with the Government of Ethiopia for the full resumption of registration across the country.

In April, UNHCR hosted a donor mission from 14 countries. The delegation travelled to the Sudan border in Benishangul Gumuz region, to witness how UNHCR works with Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and partners towards solutions from the onset of emergencies. In Addis Ababa, they saw how Ethiopia's inclusive digital ID is providing refugees with work opportunities and other services. In Melkadida (Somali region), they learnt how development projects have been instrumental to refugees and host communities in the remote region to advance innovative solutions for improved services and livelihood opportunities.

The Priority Situations Core Group (PSCG) undertook a mission to Ethiopia to engage with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE), UNHCR, IOM and refugees. The purpose of the PSCG is to help optimise, coordinate, promote, and ensure support for resettlement and complementary pathways for admission of refugees in specific priority situations, and potentially other emerging regional or situational priorities that may arise. The GoE showcased its progress in issuing exit permits. This was appreciated by represented resettlement countries. UNHCR continues to work with resettlement countries, to advocate for increased resettlement opportunities and complementary pathways (labour mobility, scholarships) for refugees in Ethiopia who are in urgent need of protection.

Along with its partners, UNHCR has been providing protection services to over 78,000 refugees living in Addis Ababa. In May, 7,200 individuals accessed protection services through the call centre, online platform and direct interaction. The services provided included individual case management and counselling; cash assistance; referrals for medical, child protection, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services; legal aid and resettlement issues.

UNHCR and partners have been deeply concerned about the plight of Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers in the Amhara region due to the challenging security situation in and around the refugee sites. The GoE, UNHCR and partners have identified another site where over the next few months refugees will be able to relocate.

In Gambella, UNHCR, in collaboration with WHO, the Regional Health Bureau (RHB), and public health partners, continued to respond to the measles outbreak and the Vaccine-Derived Polio Virus identified in Kule camp.

UNHCR and partners completed 841 emergency shelters at the Ura settlement in Benishangul-Gumuz region to relocate 4,200 Sudanese refugees from Kurmuk transit center. Additionally, 63 transitional shelters were upgraded at Tsore refugee camp in the same region.

**KENYA:** As of 30 June 2024, Kenya was host to 777,354 registered refugees and asylum-seekers including over 383,048 in Dadaab, 289,861 in Kakuma refugee camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement and nearly 104,445 in urban areas.

The University of Nairobi and UNHCR officially **inaugurated** the Refugee Resource Centre (RRC) on 24 June, a landmark initiative aimed at addressing the challenges of forced displacement in Kenya and beyond. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees joined the Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, the Principal Secretary for the State Department of Immigration and Citizen Services and UNHCR's Regional Director and Kenya Representative at the event. The RRC is situated in the Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library of the University of Nairobi and will become a research hub that will feed into policy and practice.

The National Steering Committee on the Shirika Plan met in Nairobi on 20 June and approved the draft Framework. The committee consists of Principal Secretaries from various State Departments as well as Governors from refugee-hosting counties. The UN Resident Coordinator, and UNHCR Representative, were also part of the UN team in attendance.

On 27 May, UNHCR hosted the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy and representatives from three major Danish foundations in Kakuma refugee camp, Turkana County, to launch a new collaboration with the Kenyan authorities that represents a major step towards refugee inclusion.

The new Alliance for Inclusive Refugee Response is a collaborative effort of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Grundfos Foundation and the LEGO Foundation. The initiative will run for three years and amounts to more than US\$ 70 million, which supports the Government of Kenya's ambitions to move toward a more inclusive refugee management policy.

Under the Alliance, UNHCR will receive US\$ 7 million from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure systems level inclusion of refugees in national health and education services, as well as strengthened service delivery of health and education services in Kakuma – benefitting both refugee and host communities. UNHCR is also supported with US\$ 9 million from the Novo Nordisk Foundation and Grundfos Foundation. This funding will further strengthen access to inclusive and sustainable health services and clean and safe water, sanitation and hygiene, thereby enhancing the self-reliance of refugees.

The delegation met with the county authorities and several partner organisations supporting the refugee response and valued the interaction with refugee and hosting communities to learn from their experiences and ability to cope under difficult circumstances.

UNHCR, in collaboration with the *Communicating with Communities* partners and community members, conducted 84 campaigns reaching 57,793 refugees (321 refugees are persons with disabilities). The topics covered included health, protection, floods, hygiene, biometric registration and disease outbreak prevention. Film screenings, radio listening groups, bulk SMS and mobile information caravan services were used in multiple languages to reach the target groups.

In the lead up to the Paris Olympics, UNHCR's Goodwill Ambassador Yusra Mardini, **undertook** a mission to Kakuma from 30 to 31 May to familiarize herself with UNHCR's work with a focus on Sports for Protection and Development for young people. Mardini **visited** a sports complex in Kalobeyei and held focus group discussions with refugee youth.

**RWANDA:** As of 30 June 2024, Rwanda hosted 134,272 refugees and asylum-seekers mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (61 per cent) and Burundi (38 per cent).

On 19 April, Rwanda passed the Law n° 042/2024 Governing Refugees and Applicants for Refugee Status in Rwanda. Prior to the promulgation of the new law, UNHCR provided comments and analysis in line with the organization's mandate of upholding the international refugee convention. While UNHCR appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the process of revising and strengthening refugee legislation, and noted many positive aspects in the new law, there are several areas that require attention and adjustment to better align with international standards and ensure the effective protection and assistance of refugees and asylum seekers in Rwanda.

To continue to fulfil its mandate, UNHCR has established various channels to facilitate communication with refugees such as help lines, SMS, WhatsApp, email, face-to-face counselling, and community meetings. In May and June, 363 displaced persons made enquiries in Kigali and Nyamata with 30 per cent of the requests concerning health care and community-based health insurance (CBHI) enrolment. In April, 130 displaced persons made inquiries in Kigali with 23 percent of requests concerning health care and community-based health insurance (CBHI) enrolment.



UNHCR noted a rise in the number of newly arrived asylum seekers in Rwanda who are being received at UNHCR's community centre in Gikondo, Kigali, but lack accommodation in the city. In response, UNHCR has initiated meetings with the District Executive Administration and government authorities to address this homelessness issue. Collaborating with local entities such as the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), Directorate-General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE), and Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR), a streamlined process has been implemented to promptly issue temporary residence permits to new asylum seekers and assist them in relocating to Mahama refugee camp if they cannot sustain themselves elsewhere in Rwanda. Additionally, in June, UNHCR collaborated with Spirit of Peace and Solidarity (SPS), a refugee-led organization in Rwanda, to provide accommodation for asylum seekers from Burundi, Sudan, and other nationalities who approached UNHCR for support as they lacked housing in Kigali. SPS has agreed to provide temporary housing for these individuals until they can be relocated to refugee camps. Over 167 asylum seekers were relocated to Mahama refugee camp in June.

Following approval from the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR commenced the official registration of asylum seekers at Nkamira transit centre in May. Over 4,670 individuals were registered and provided with Proof of Registration documents by the end of June.

UNHCR continues to support refugee led organizations (RLOs) based in Rwanda and is conducting a series of workshops to aid their development. In April, workshops on resource mobilization and recruitment were organized for RLOs. In total, 15 RLOs are part of the RLO network in Rwanda and UNHCR continues to conduct outreach to identify and include additional organizations.

Agriculture is one of the main sectors through which refugee self-reliance can be achieved in Rwanda. UNHCR is currently running three projects to enhance refugee and Rwandan host community livelihoods and self-reliance through the Misizi (covering Mugombwa camp), Nyabicwamba (covering Nyabiheke Refugee Camp), and Mushishito (covering Kigeme Refugee Camp) marshlands. In April, crop season B for 2024 continued, with farmers in Nyabicwamba marshland sowing soyabean seeds for cultivation. Refugee farmers bought the seeds and fertilizers by their own means through a local agro-dealership scheme. In June, the general assembly for the cooperative in Nyabicwamba marshland was held, with 273 farmers in attendance. Key points of discussion included strategies for organizing irrigation to protect the soybean crop, as the dry season had started earlier than expected.

**SOMALIA:** At the end of June 2024, Somalia hosted some 39,475 refugees and asylum-seekers, of whom 66 per cent are women and children; 30 per cent are school-age children (6-17 years); and 26 per cent are women and girls (13-49 years). The majority of refugees and asylum-seekers (65 per cent) are from Ethiopia, followed by Yemen (29 per cent), Syria (4 per cent) and other countries (1 per cent). Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers (74 per cent) reside in urban or peri-urban settings across the Woqooyi Galbeed and Bari regions, both of which are in the northern part of the country.

Since December 2014, a total of 139,155 former refugees have returned to Somalia from their countries of asylum, mostly from Kenya, followed by Yemen. From the total number of refugee returnees, more than 95,000 individuals have been directly assisted by UNHCR, mainly through the Voluntary Repatriation Programme from Kenya and the Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASR) Programme from Yemen.

UNHCR continued to operate in a highly complex environment, largely characterized by insecurity, political tension, and climate change. The humanitarian crisis in Somalia is severe. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 6.9 million people in Somalia will need humanitarian assistance in 2024. Recurrent shocks, including climatic events, conflict, insecurity, and disease outbreaks, continue to exacerbate needs. About 4.3 million people remain acutely food insecure, and malnutrition rates among children under five remain high.<sup>1</sup>

Rates of internal displacement owing to climate change and insecurity remained high. The UNHCR-led [Protection and Solutions Returns Network \(PRMN\)](#) has recorded more than 236,000 displacements within Somalia in 2024, with the Hiran, Lower Juba, and Gedo regions recording the highest number of displaced population inflows. In June alone, some 20,000 internal displacements were recorded, primarily because of floods (40 per cent), insecurity (30 per cent), and other reasons (30 per cent). Food, shelter, and water were the top needs of the newly displaced families. Gedo, Banadir, and Bari were the most affected regions, accounting for 55% of the total displacements. Women and children, who face heightened protection risk, make up 80 per cent of the displaced population.<sup>2</sup> The new PSMN online interactive dashboard at <http://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org/> provides more up-to-date information about displacement and the protection needs of IDPs.

The rains triggered by the El-Nino phenomenon caused localized flooding and affected 268,000 people, although some of the displaced people have returned home due to prevailing dry conditions.<sup>3</sup> There has been a surge in acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera cases, largely due to contaminated water sources, malnutrition in children, inadequate sanitation, and challenges in accessing healthcare. The Federal Ministry of Health reports that since January, there have been 12,327 cases and 114 deaths, indicating a case fatality rate of 1.0 per cent. Most of these cases are in the Afgooye district, followed by Banadir. Furthermore, heavy rains have severely affected the water, sanitation, and hygiene sectors, leading to the destruction of 644 latrines and significant damage to 124 water points, thereby increasing the risk of waterborne diseases.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-2024-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-hnnp-summary>

<sup>2</sup> *Somalia Factsheet - Key Figures (As of 29 Feb 2024) - Somalia | ReliefWeb*

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/somalia/somalia-situation-report-4-june-2024>

<sup>4</sup> *Document - UNHCR Somalia- Operational Update May 2024*

The Federal Government of Somalia's National Commission for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (NCRI) conducted a three-day workshop in May 2024 in Mogadishu. This workshop reviewed the pledges that the Somali government made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in Geneva in 2019, focusing on finding a durable solution, job creation, reintegration, and relocations. As a result, an Inter-Ministerial Taskforce, consisting of four ministries, has been established to support the government of Somalia's efforts to operationalize the government's pledges made in December 2019. UNHCR and the federal government of Somalia's National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) have been closely working with relevant stakeholders and community representatives in all the Federal Member States to re-orient GRF's pledge advancement in line with the durable solution and Somalia's national development plan agenda.



*New arrival refugees receive core relief items at the Doro Refugee Reception Center in Maban © UNHCR/ Reason Moses Runyanga*

**SOUTH SUDAN:** As of 30 June 2024, South Sudan hosted some 474,000 refugees, 220,000 returnees and around 11,000 asylum seekers. Another 2 million South Sudanese are internally displaced.

Since the start of the year, 217,167 individuals have arrived from Sudan including 70,277 refugees and asylum-seekers, bringing South Sudan's total refugee population to 464,593 as of 30 June. Daily average arrivals have decreased from 1,800 in 2023 to 1,400 in 2024, with most arriving in Renk through the Joda border crossing (82 per cent). The overall economic and humanitarian situation in South Sudan further deteriorated with the Minimum Expenditure Basket increasing by 48 per cent between April 2023 and March 2024. The new extension of the Renk Transit Centre was opened in early January with a capacity to host 2,200 individuals but was hosting 7,660 refugees and returnees in June 2024.

UNHCR's Deputy High Commissioner (DHC) and Sweden's State Secretary for International Development Cooperation jointly visited South Sudan on 11–13 April, where they witnessed the [impact](#) of one of the world's most complex and challenging humanitarian crises. The visit marked one year since the start of the conflict in neighboring Sudan. During their three-day trip, they visited Renk, where hundreds of thousands of South Sudanese returnees and Sudanese refugees have arrived after fleeing the conflict. While in Juba, the delegation met with the Foreign Affairs Minister and Humanitarian Affairs Minister, while the DHC also met with Vice President Rebecca Nyandeng De Mabior and the Interior Minister and took the occasion to praise South Sudan for keeping its borders open and promoting access to employment for refugees. The DHC also stressed the need for the government to lead the response and provide access to basic services for its returning citizens.

Preparedness efforts continued in Renk and other locations for an influx from White Nile State and Kordofan, also with a focus on the upcoming rainy season. South Sudan is projected to experience record-level flooding from June to September, severely affecting

Maban and Renk. 187,000 refugees are projected to be affected by the floods in South Sudan in refugee camps and settlements, in addition to 55,000 new arrivals refugees who are projected to be affected in Renk.

Without adequate flood preparedness measures, refugee camps and transit locations will remain vulnerable to flooding, displacing already displaced populations and host communities, destroying infrastructure, and increasing health risks due to waterborne diseases. Community structures will also be ill-prepared to handle the impact of floods, worsening the humanitarian crisis.

**SUDAN:** Sudan has historically hosted one of the largest refugee populations in Africa. Prior to the conflict, Sudan hosted 1.1 million refugees, majority of whom resided in Khartoum State. As of the end of June 2024, the refugees and asylum seekers in Sudan are estimated to be over 900,000.

The majority of these refugees are from South Sudan (72.8 per cent), followed by Eritrea (16.5 per cent), and Ethiopia (8 per cent). The conflict has also led to internal displacement, with 239,687 refugees self-relocating within Sudan, primarily moving from Khartoum to other states. In terms of living conditions, 65 per cent of the refugees are accommodated in camps, while the remaining 35 per cent live outside of these facilities. The refugee population is almost evenly split in terms of gender, with females accounting for 51% and males making up the remaining 49 per cent.

The security situation in Sudan remains highly volatile, characterized by ongoing armed conflict, criminal activities and communal tensions.

In June, local sources reported that thousands of families had fled El Fasher to Dar As Salam, Tawila, Kebkebyia, Al Lait in North Darfur, and Central, East, and South Darfur States. Additionally, there were reports of people crossing the border into Chad, although exact numbers were to be confirmed. In Dinka refugee camp, El Fasher, North Darfur some South Sudanese refugees indicated they wished to return to South Sudan citing critical gaps, food, health services, and livelihood opportunities and requested UNHCR support with their return.

On 21 June, El Fasher Saudi Hospital was shelled, resulting in the death of a female pharmacist and rendering the hospital non-operational. This was the only remaining hospital in El Fasher. On 23 June, the Dialysis Center was also hit by shelling. The health sector now faces significant challenges, and the Ministry of Health has reportedly deployed mobile clinics to address the gaps.

By the end of June, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and the World Food Programme (WFP) released critical reports on the severe food insecurity and malnutrition issues in Sudan. The reports highlighted that over half of Sudan's population, approximately 25.6 million people, were facing crisis or worse conditions (IPC Phase 3 or above). The conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has significantly worsened the situation, leading to large-scale displacement and destruction of infrastructure.<sup>5</sup>

The conflict has had a devastating impact on agricultural production leading to acute food insecurity, malnutrition rates are soaring and the obstacles to aid delivery are many. WFP warns that at least 25 million people are struggling with escalating rates of [hunger and malnutrition](#).

During the reporting period, reports from Community Based Protection Networks (CBPNs) and community workers in North Darfur indicated a rise in malnutrition cases among displaced children, lactating women, and the elderly due to food shortages and lack of available medications.

Conflict, food insecurity coupled with diminished livelihood options have dramatic consequences on women and girls, heightening the risks of intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking in person and resorting to harmful coping mechanisms. Attacks on GBV service providers as well as frontline workers including Women-led organizations (WLOs) are also reported. Limited access in conflict-affected states, shortage of supplies and limited availability of specialized GBV services continue to be the most pressing challenges.

UNHCR's GBV response continues to ensure that coordination mechanisms and referral pathways are in place in refugee settings. Jointly with its partners, UNHCR has strengthened the provision of lifesaving, survivor-centred GBV response services addressing health- including Clinical Management of Rape (CMR), psychosocial support (PSS), economic/material assistance, legal awareness to GBV survivors, as well as referral to appropriate services.

For the first time since the conflict began a year prior, a [UNHCR team reached Omdurman](#) in Khartoum State on a two-day mission in late April 2024. The agency witnessed massive destruction in the city and met displaced families who told them of their struggles to get enough food as prices soared. They also lack adequate shelter, enough medicines, and education for their children.

UNHCR as a part of strengthening the protection environment and capacitating authorities about international protection laws and practices, conducted a 2-day training on refugee protection, international and national laws, and GBV for authorities from Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), Ministry of Health and Social Development, judges, prosecutor's office, lawyers, and security personnel in Dongola, Northern State.

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<sup>5</sup> [IPC Sudan Acute Food Insecurity Snapshot June 2024 to Feb 2025](#)



In White Nile State, COR obtained additional land to relocate close to 23,000 secondary displaced refugees and asylum-seekers who are currently living inside schools in Alagaya, Umsangur, and Khor Alwaral refugee camps. UNHCR will provide materials to support families to set-up shelters.

**TANZANIA:** As of 30 June 2024, Tanzania was host to over 236,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Most reside in the Nyarugusu and Nduta refugee camps while some refugees from the 1972 Burundian population live in villages and three old settlements in Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora. Since the start of the voluntary repatriation exercise in September 2017, UNHCR facilitated returns of more than 172,600 to Burundi from Tanzania as of 30 June 2024. This includes a total of 7,782 refugees repatriated to Burundi so far in 2024.

In coordination with the Government, UNHCR and partners have been receiving asylum seekers fleeing violent clashes in the DRC since March 2023. As of 30 June 2024, a total of 14,621 Congolese new arrivals were received in Tanzania.

Refugees residing in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps received 62 per cent of dry food rations. The Danish Refugee Council continued providing hot meals for Burundian refugees repatriating and Congolese new arrivals residing at the reception and departure centres.

With support from the European Union (EU) and the Kingdom of Belgium, the Danish Refugee Council provided technical assistance on kitchen gardening to 4,050 individuals (2,980 female, 1,070 male), assisting refugees to improve their dietary diversity and mitigate the impact of reduced food rations.

In June, UNHCR and partners established 10 mushroom fruiting chambers in Kasulu and Kibondo. UNHCR and partners also trained 94 individuals from the refugee and host communities in advanced mushroom farming practices. The initiative aims to improve skills, livelihoods and nutrition for both communities.

**UGANDA:** By the end of June 2024, Uganda was hosting over 1.7 million refugees and asylum seekers. New arrivals have continued to enter the country mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan and Sudan. Since the beginning of the year, Uganda has received 69,605 refugees mainly from Sudan (26,796), the DRC (14,280), South Sudan (14,031) and Eritrea (11,520). The continuous influx of new arrivals has led to overcrowding at some of the collection and transit facilities with 8,147 individuals in transit centres and collection points (3,374 in West Nile and 4,773 in the South and Mid-West). Combined with funding shortfalls, this has put **significant** pressure on protection and assistance services provided to refugees and their host communities, risking Uganda's solid protection regime and refugee response model.

Kampala hosted 149,302 refugees and asylum seekers, many living in crowded conditions like other urban poor. Urban refugees face socioeconomic challenges including limited funding, insufficient livelihood opportunities, language barriers, lack of academic qualification accreditations, mental health issues and inadequate healthcare despite the Government's expectation for self-reliance. There is a dedicated urban field unit to assist refugees in addressing these issues.

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Uganda has made significant progress since its launch in 2017, as refugees are included in national planning through Uganda's National Development Plan III and District Development Plans. The CRRF, guided by a high-level Steering Group, involves refugees in decision-making processes. UNHCR is supporting the Government of Uganda to progress on pledges (transition of services, action against climate change, and localization of the refugee response) made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2023.

UNHCR and the World Bank's Joint Data Center in partnership with UNFPA, facilitated the inclusion of refugees in the Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) 2023/2024. Refugees were also included for the first time in the National Population and Housing Census which was conducted in May 2024.

Refugees are integrated in national service delivery via the third National Development Plan (NDP III). In May, Uganda launched the process for the NDP IV development to address Uganda's major development challenges for the period 2025-2030. The implementation thereof will continue to be guided by the sector response plans in Health, Education, Water and Environment, Jobs and Livelihoods, and Sustainable Energy, catering for the needs of both refugees and host communities.

UNHCR continued to facilitate access to basic education for refugee children. The Government's integration policy is outlined in the National Development Plan III (2020/21 - 2024/25) and Education Response Plan (ERP) II (2022-2025). The aim is to progressively include refugees in the national education system. UNHCR is supporting this transition by supporting teacher salaries, providing scholastic and instructional materials, hygiene kits, accelerated education programs, staff capacity building, school fees and scholarships, support to children with disabilities, translation of certificates, and enabling access to academic scholarships, with a focus on accessible quality education, and strengthened service provision.

Data from 662 settlement schools and 475 host community schools indicates that 626,804 students (421,517 refugees, 205,287 nationals) were enrolled by the end of June. This is 93 per cent of the targeted 674,895 learners that Education partners aim to be in school. The Gross Enrolment rate at pre-primary school is 36 per cent for refugees and 14 per cent for nationals, 91 per cent for refugees and 28 per cent nationals at primary level and 9 per cent for refugees and 16 per cent nationals at secondary level. Approximately 100,863 host community children are accessing education through UNHCR-supported settlement schools, while about 191,834 primary refugee learners and 3,099 secondary refugee learners are learning in public schools.

UNHCR and its partners facilitated education across 287 pre-school centres, 270 primary, and 61 secondary schools. UNHCR's inclusion roadmap aims to code 55 per cent of community schools in refugee settlements by 2025. Coding involves government-supported takeover, as part of the transition strategy.

UNHCR delivered primary healthcare through support to 94 health facilities in 13 refugee hosting districts, including core staffing support of around 1,918 health workers, upgrading and rehabilitating infrastructure, supplying medical equipment, essential medicines, and ensuring the operation of 65 ambulances for emergency response across the refugee hosting districts. There are 80 per cent of health facilities which have been accredited which has strengthened the national healthcare system's capacity to cope with the increasing demand for health services for refugees and host population.

## REGIONAL UPDATES

### Development Partnerships and Fundraising

Aspiring for Peace and Inclusion Research Launched in Kakuma, Kenya: On 30 April, the Danish Refugee Council and UNHCR launched the [Aspiring for Peace and Inclusion Research \(ASPIRE\)](#) in Kakuma Refugee Camp and the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement. Leaders of various refugee and host communities, refugee youth peacebuilders, representatives of refugee-led and community-based organizations, representatives of international peacebuilding NGOs, a local government official, and focal points from UNHCR's headquarters, regional bureau and country operation in Kenya attended the launch event, which was held at UNHCR's sub-office in Kakuma. Implemented by Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the University of Copenhagen, with the close strategic partnership of UNHCR, the ASPIRE is a longitudinal, ethnographic study that follows a generation of young South Sudanese refugees over a period of 15 years, exploring how they perceive and pursue opportunities for peace in their communities. ASPIRE aims at providing new knowledge about how young South Sudanese affected by the civil war(s) in their country over time contribute to peaceful coexistence in their communities, perceive their options, and act towards a more peaceful future. It simultaneously looks at how humanitarian, development and peace (HDP) actors are used by – and influence – this progress. Launched in Rhino Camp, Uganda, in 2023, ASPIRE produced its first [report](#) in January 2024 and is currently supported by funds from EU-INTPA under the Sudan-South Sudan Solutions Initiative. ASPIRE is implemented alongside UNHCR's Regional Youth Peacebuilding Programme (RYPP) in East Africa, which equips displacement affected, mainly South Sudanese refugee, youth with the skills, knowledge and resources to lead peacebuilding and conflict resolution initiatives in their communities. ASPIRE follows many of the 'youth peacebuilders' supported under RYPP, exploring their initiatives for peace.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) announced its new [Ten-Year Strategy 2024-2033](#) at its Annual Conference in Nairobi on 29 May. The Strategy serves as a blueprint to tackle the continent's challenges and to support countries towards sustained economic growth and prosperity. It sets out a vision of a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and integrated Africa, driven by two key objectives: accelerating inclusive green growth and fostering prosperous and resilient economies. It commits to accelerating and scaling up its efforts in the implementation of the AfDB's High 5s, with a focus on transformative projects with far-reaching impacts. Refugees and IDPs are highlighted in the new Strategy, as part of AfDB's efforts to building resilience to shocks, conflict and fragility as a cross-cutting priority. Other cross-cutting priorities include promoting gender equality, investing in young people, responding to climate change and investing in climate action, and promoting good governance and economic stability. Additionally, the private sector is highlighted as playing a pivotal role in driving Africa's transformation over the next decade. [Press release](#).

Green Climate Fund's landmark engagement in forced displacement context: In a historic move, in October 2023, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved its first ever adaptation project to be implemented in a forced displacement context. The project in Tanzania, which became effective in April 2024, is designed to bolster climate resilience through an integrated landscape ecosystem-based adaptation approach. This approach aims to strengthen the ecosystem's support functions, improve livelihoods, and mitigate the impacts of flooding in affected communities. This initiative marks a significant milestone for UNHCR as it is the first time the agency is participating in a GCF-funded project. The UN-to-UN agreement with UNEP, which serves as the Accredited Entity overseeing the project implementation, was officially signed in Nairobi on 19 June 2024. This partnership exemplifies a unified commitment to addressing the multifaceted challenges of climate change in displacement settings and will hopefully increase the inclusion of forced displacement in GCF projects.

### Inter-Agency Coordination

The [Mid-Year Update of the Sudan 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#) was published in June 2024. Libya, and Uganda are now part of the Regional RRP. The overall requirements of the Sudan Regional Refugee Response plan stand at USD 1.5 billion (up from 1.4 billion) to support a population of 3.3 million (up from 2.7 million)-refugees, returnees, migrants, third-country nationals, and host communities. In addition, the January – April 2024 [progress report](#) for the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan was released outlining key achievements and challenges in the multi-partner response in CAR, Chad, Egypt, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

On 6 May, the UNHCR Regional Director met with the IRC Regional Vice President, East Africa. UNHCR shared the vision for the region and opportunities for ongoing and future collaborations. IRC affirmed its commitment to continue responding to the needs of refugee populations in the region. IRC has significant last-mile programming expertise in integrated health, education, economic well-being, and protection of women and children, as well as in sexual and reproductive health and rights of displaced populations in Kenya, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

The UNHCR Regional Director met with Population Council Interim Co-President and General Counsel, on 16 May. The meeting discussed the existing relationships and collaboration in the area of adolescent girls. Population Council, and invited UNHCR to visit the Girl Innovation Research, and Learning (GIRL) Center, which is led from the Nairobi office.

The ILO Country Director for Tanzania, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda met with UNHCR on 19 June. The meeting discussed strengthening collaboration in leveraging labour migration policy in the EAC and IGAD, the certification policy framework for refugees and returnees, and expanding the ILO and UNHCR Approach to Inclusive Market Systems (AIMS). UNHCR and ILO have an existing collaborative framework that covers various entry points on Social Protection, livelihoods, and economic inclusion at the country and regional levels, as well as an ongoing partnership under PROSPECTS.

UNHCR and INGO Directors held their quarterly meeting on 6 June. With the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) as a standing agenda, INGOs shared updates on the GRF pledges made by their organizations for this region.

UNHCR and UNDP organized a virtual consultation with UNDP and UNHCR Country Offices on 4 June. The objective was to advance the UNDP-UNHCR Global Collaboration Framework on Inclusion and Solutions in the East, Horn, and Great Lakes of Africa. The country offices identified the priorities, modalities, and areas that need support as a follow-up to the collaboration. The agreed outcomes will shape the roadmap anchored on regional priorities and country-led partnership between UNDP and UNHCR.

UNHCR met with Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT), Refugee-Led Research Hub (RLRH), Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS), and Oxfam on 23 May to discuss mechanisms for strengthening working with local actors including Refugee Led Organisations (RLOs). This includes identifying appropriate structures that enable refugee representation, mechanisms for providing more paid work to refugees, and funding arrangements for refugee-led organizations. People with lived experiences of displacement will drive the process of mapping out the key decision-makers and the right entry points for that engagement.



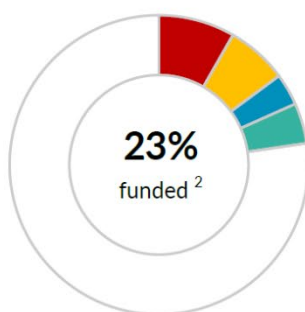
## Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the **East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region**, as well as to those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.



**\$ 2.189 billion**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2024 <sup>1</sup>



**FUNDING UPDATE | 2024**

**EAST HORN AND  
GREAT LAKES**

as of 30 June 2024



### NOTES:

1. The financial requirements for East Horn and Great Lakes are for the operations in Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania.
2. The percentage funded (23%) and total funding amount (\$496,655,643) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$1,692,393,903 representing 77% of the financial requirements.

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