

SUDAN SITUATION

May 2025



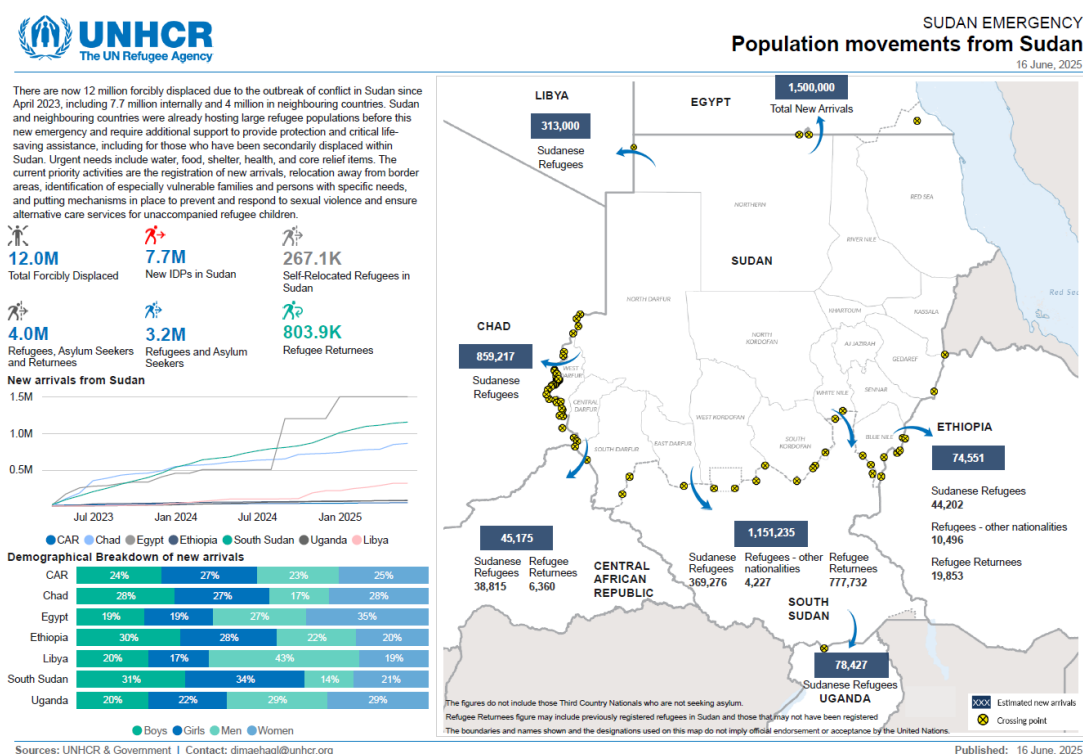
Thousands of Sudanese refugees continue to cross into Chad. UNHCR is supporting the government in relocating them to safer sites and providing essential aid. Haifa aspires to become a doctor, but achieving this remains uncertain due to limited funding. Key needs include food, water, healthcare, and education. © UNHCR/Ala Kheir

Highlights

- The crisis in Sudan continues to spill across borders, with South Sudan facing some of the most severe impacts. Reception and relocation capacity is reaching its limits, with the suspension of relocation from Renk and the closure of UNHCR's Abyei transit centre compounding pressures. Deteriorating conditions in refugee-hosting areas such as Maban, marked by insecurity and food shortages, among other factors, have triggered spontaneous returns to Sudan's Blue Nile State, raising protection concerns and underscoring the urgency of sustainable solutions on both sides of the border.
- Chad also continues to face immense pressure – since the conflict in Sudan escalated in April 2023, more than 856,000 Sudanese refugees have fled to Chad, including over 78,500 into the Wadi Fira and Ennedi Est provinces since 23 April 2025, now the epicentre of the latest influx. In response, UNHCR, the Government of Chad, and partners have conducted multi-sectoral assessments and launched emergency assistance despite major funding constraints. So far, 27,510 refugees have been relocated from border areas to Iridimi, Wadi Fira province, while nearly 18,000 are still awaiting relocation. Urgent international support is needed to scale up the response, especially in the eastern provinces, including Wadi Fira, Ennedi Est, and Ouaddaï, where the humanitarian situation remains critical.
- The Government of Egypt officially endorsed the 2025 Egypt Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (ERRRP), its first nationally led refugee initiative, marking a key milestone in the refugee response. The plan will be launched on 24 June at a joint event co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR, and UNDP.
- Between January and May 2025, approximately 127,500 Sudanese refugees crossed back from Egypt to Sudan. According to Sudanese community leaders in Egypt, most of these cross-border

movements are pendular, with mostly Sudanese men temporarily returning to their country to assess the current situation. UNHCR Egypt is currently conducting an intention survey to better understand the scope and motivations of this trend.

- In Sudan, nearly 400,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) have returned to severely damaged areas such as Sennar, Al Jazirah, and Khartoum, where basic services remain scarce. Many returnees are unable to return to their places of origin and instead find themselves in IDP-like situations, staying in collective shelters or with host families, or returning to the country of asylum.
- In the Amhara Region, Ethiopia, the refugee registration exercise officially began on 20 May, marking a milestone in the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia's National Identification Program (NIDP). This voluntary process facilitates access to essential services such as employment, banking, work permits, and freedom of movement for work or education.
- In Libya, the ongoing Sudan crisis continues to drive protection and humanitarian concerns. In late May, eleven Sudanese refugees tragically died of dehydration in the southern desert after their vehicle broke down near Alkufra, underscoring the risks faced by those fleeing conflict. UNHCR Libya [called](#) for stronger protection and an end to the hostilities in Sudan.



Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- The conflict in Sudan continues unabated, particularly in the Darfur and Kordofan States. In May, Port Sudan and Kassala States witnessed drone attacks on key government and military infrastructure, the first since the conflict began. As a result, the electricity supply was disrupted, and fuel was in limited supply. Some international commercial airlines, which had recently resumed services to Port Sudan, suspended these indefinitely.
- By the end of May, Sudan had received over 41,000 South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers, prompting the development of a six-month contingency plan for the arrival of 148,000 South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers. Between January to April 2025, the Refugee Consultation Forum partners had reached over 778,000 refugees, asylum-seekers, and host community members in Sudan with different types of assistance.
- While the overall health situation for refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan remained relatively stable in May, multiple disease outbreaks posed significant risks. Cholera, measles, dengue fever,

and polio were reported in several states. Cholera cases surged in Khartoum and Darfur States. Khartoum State recorded over 2,000 new cholera cases, while South and East Darfur reported 88 suspected cases. Over 708 cases of cholera among refugees in East Darfur, Gedaref, Kassala, North Darfur, and White Nile have been reported since the resurgence of the outbreak in August 2024. One measles case in Kassala State and two polio cases in Central and West Darfur States were reported in May.

Population Movements and Registration

UNHCR and the Commission of Refugees (COR) received over 43,500 refugees, including South Sudanese, Ethiopians, and Eritrean refugees and asylum-seekers in White Nile, Kassala, Kordofan, Darfur, and Gedaref States since the beginning of the year, of which 41,000 are South Sudanese arriving since April 2025.

In May, 4,410 Eritrean, South Sudanese, and Ethiopian refugees and asylum-seekers were registered in Kassala, Red Sea, Blue Nile, Gedaref, and White Nile States, and over 10,280 refugees in Gedaref, Kassala, White Nile, and Red Sea states received identity documents like photo slips and identity cards.

UNHCR, together with COR, conducted a registration scoping mission to Al Jazirah State in the first week of May. During the mission, close to 1,160 Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees and asylum-seekers were profiled across Medani Al Kubra, Al Hasahisa, and Al Manaqil localities. Findings revealed that 79 per cent of those profiled are unregistered and expressed a strong need to be registered in order to receive documentation and access assistance. While it was not possible to profile South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers during the mission, community leaders reported that they face significant protection risks, including arrest, detention, and deportation due to their nationality. UNHCR is coordinating with COR to resume registration activities for refugees and asylum-seekers in Al Jazirah State.

Relocation

In April 2025, Sudanese authorities suspended the registration of refugees and asylum-seekers in Khartoum State, citing security concerns and government directives. Against the backdrop of growing insecurity and the lack of essential services, authorities announced plans to relocate documented refugees from Khartoum to established camps in Gedaref, Kassala, and White Nile States, where similar refugee populations are already hosted. The first relocation took place at the end of May, with 62 Ethiopian refugee households (148 individuals) transferred to Gedaref State. Upon arrival, the relocated individuals were placed under quarantine for cholera monitoring and received hot meals and medical assistance. UNHCR, in coordination with COR and partners, is supporting efforts to ensure that the relocation process is safe, dignified, and protection-sensitive. This includes the activation of protection desks and direct community engagement to identify and prioritize people with heightened vulnerabilities. UNHCR continues to advocate for the urgent resumption of registration activities in Khartoum, emphasizing that registration is essential for upholding the rights and protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. Additional relocations from Khartoum State are expected to take place throughout June.

Cross-border Movements

In May, over 15,000 Sudanese nationals reportedly crossed from Egypt to Sudan through the Eshkeet and Argeen border crossings in Northern State, according to Sudanese immigration authorities. Since January, approximately 127,500 individuals have returned from Egypt. While there are also reports of Sudanese re-entering the country via the Libyan border, exact figures remain unavailable due to access and geographical constraints.

In Blue Nile State, local authorities reported that over 24,500 Sudanese returned from Upper Nile State in South Sudan, entering Damazine locality via the Joda border crossing in White Nile State. These returnees are currently accommodated at the Alkarama 5 gathering site in Damazine town. Continued instability and limited support in refugee camps across South Sudan are prompting more people to consider returning.

Community-based protection networks in Tina, North Darfur, reported cross-border movements into Chad and Libya. Approximately 850 households from El Fasher reportedly crossed into Chad via Korma, Kutum, and Tawila, while 400 households, primarily from Zamzam IDP Camp, reportedly crossed into Libya through Chad. Although the flow of civilians from Tawila to Chad has slowed, further displacement is anticipated as fighting continues in and around El Fasher in North Darfur State.

Protection

In May, close to 100 forcibly displaced people were referred for sector-specific support via the protection desk and counselling in refugee camps and IDP gathering sites in Gedaref and Kassala States. In Red Sea State, the protection hotline responded to 24 calls covering issues such as the need for cash assistance, medical support, and registration. Over 1,100 individuals were reached through focus group discussions and key informant interviews in East, South, and North Darfur, highlighting critical gaps in shelter, NFIs, food, WASH, and health care services. Additionally, 15 hotline feedback calls were received from IDPs in South Darfur, raising similar concerns. In Tawila, North Darfur State, 900 IDPs participated in focus group discussions, with 90 per cent reporting serious protection incidents, including looting, violence, and movement restrictions during flight.

In Gedaref State, UNHCR and COR organized awareness-raising sessions on the civilian character of asylum with refugees, asylum-seekers, and local authorities to prevent the recruitment of refugees and asylum-seekers.

The protection of civilians remains a critical concern amid the conflict and displacement, particularly in the Darfur region. The presence of unexploded ordnance in IDP camps and urban areas continues to pose life-threatening risks, particularly to children. Arbitrary arrests and detentions are widespread, with reports of forced recruitment targeting mainly youth. Gender-based violence involving women and girls fleeing conflict zones is pervasive and underreported. The civilian character of displacement sites is increasingly being compromised due to the presence of armed actors, leading to insecurity and tension.

Legal assistance

In May, UNHCR and its partners provided legal counselling and court representation to over 650 refugees and IDPs in Kassala, Gedaref, White Nile, Blue Nile, and Northern States, focusing on Sudanese criminal and civil law, and documentation.

More than 1,000 refugees, IDPs, and host community members were reached through legal awareness sessions and focus group discussions in Kassala, White Nile, and Northern States. Topics included gender-based violence (GBV), peaceful coexistence, legal rights, civil documentation, and human trafficking. These sessions empowered participants, especially women, by strengthening their knowledge of legal protections and available services.

UNHCR, together with COR, IOM, and other partners, screened 125 trafficking victims (Somali, Eritrean, and Ethiopian nationals) at Wad Sharife Reception Centre in Kassala State. Of these, 79 sought asylum in Sudan, while others chose voluntary return and were referred to IOM. Fourteen victims were transferred to a safe house to serve as witnesses in legal proceedings against traffickers.

In Gedaref State, authorities intercepted 23 Somali and Eritrean trafficking victims. UNHCR and COR relocated the Eritreans to Shagarab Camp and referred the Somalis to IOM for return assistance.

In Wadi Halfa, UNHCR and its partners organized a two-day training for 21 officials from the judiciary, civil registry, police, social welfare, border authorities, and others to strengthen knowledge of national and international legal frameworks on child protection, civil registration, trafficking, and migration.

In White Nile State, 18 paralegals received training on legal aid, case identification, and referral mechanisms in refugee camps.

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

In May, 99 GBV survivors received support across refugee camps and IDP sites in Kassala, White Nile, Blue Nile, East Darfur, and South Darfur through health, legal, and psychosocial referrals. In Blue Nile, 24 survivors received comprehensive case management, while 52 survivors in East and South Darfur were supported with dignity kits and psychosocial care. UNHCR, COR, and partners also launched the first GBV safety audit in Camp 6 (Blue Nile) to assess risks through focus group discussions, interviews, and safety walks. Capacity-building efforts included training for 223 Community-Based Protection Network (CBPN) members in White Nile and Northern States and 20 stakeholders in East Darfur. Awareness sessions reached nearly 560 people, including targeted activities in Kassala camps (addressing female genital

mutilation, early marriage, and harassment) and in Blue Nile and Sennar, where over 270 women and girls took part in GBV prevention discussions.

Community-based protection

UNHCR and its partners strengthened community-based protection in Darfur and other states through awareness sessions, psychosocial support, and accountability initiatives. Over 1,450 community members participated in GBV prevention and protection awareness sessions at Multi-Purpose Community Centres (MPCCs) across Darfur. More than 2,600 IDPs engaged in structured recreational and psychosocial activities at MPCCs, helping children and youth cope with trauma in a safe and supportive environment.

Protection desks at MPCCs in West, North, and Central Darfur provided individual counselling to over 300 people, with referrals for case management and non-food items. Mental health and psychosocial support services reached over 1,400 individuals, including 153 one-on-one sessions and 1,290 group participants.

In Blue Nile and South Darfur, 30 Community-Based Protection Network (CBPN) members were established/trained, including on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Centre Management. In East Darfur, 42 CBPN members received training on case management and child protection.

In Gedaref's Um Gargour Camp, UNHCR convened an Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) meeting, where refugees raised concerns on shelter, health, water, education, and resettlement. Sector focal points responded on the spot, and refugees were also counselled on resettlement inquiries.

Refugee-led and IDP-led organizations

UNHCR's partner, in coordination with the Youth and Peace Builders' Committees and COR in White Nile State, organized a football competition among refugees and host communities in Um Sangor Refugee Camp to strengthen social cohesion between the two communities.

Sudan Organization for Local Development, an IDP-led organization in Kassala State, conducted information campaigns on the relocation of IDPs living in schools and provided information on the availability of services in other gathering sites.

Child protection

UNHCR and its partners provided targeted protection and support to at-risk refugee and IDP children, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), across multiple states. In White Nile and Kassala, 65 at-risk refugee children received tailored support based on best interest assessments, including psychosocial support, nutrition, food, and shelter assistance. Over 160 home visits were conducted to monitor UASC in alternative care, with counselling provided to foster parents.

In Blue Nile, beds and mattresses were distributed to five refugee children in Camp 6. In Kassala, 40 child protection actors (psychologists, social workers, volunteers, and CBPN members) were trained on managing child-friendly services (CFS). A Best Interest Determination (BID) panel was established in Kassala, and members were trained to enhance case management for UASC.

In Gedaref, a long-separated, unaccompanied girl was reunified with her family following successful tracing. In East Darfur, UNHCR's partner held 13 psychosocial support sessions for children and caregivers across five sites, reaching 2,000 children, 48 women, and others with specific needs. Recreational kits were distributed, and over 90 UASC received home visits with follow-up support, including awareness-raising for caregivers. One at-risk child in the El Neem IDP Camp was identified and assisted with in-kind support.

Health and Nutrition

In May, UNHCR and partners supported over 54,000 outpatient consultations for refugees and host communities in primary health care facilities across White Nile, Blue Nile, Kassala, and Darfur States. The most commonly reported illnesses were malaria, upper respiratory tract infections, and acute diarrhoea. In Blue Nile State, around 150 women from refugee and host communities received reproductive health services, including antenatal and postnatal care, from trained midwives at Camp 6. In Gedaref State, more than 600 mothers attended similar services, with a noticeable positive trend in sexual and reproductive health service uptake, suggesting improved access and awareness. However, the anticipated suspension

of support to the Tunaydbah Refugee Camp maternity hospital in August 2025 due to financial constraints raises serious concerns about future access to critical care, especially for complex pregnancies.

Mental health and psychosocial support services expanded in Gedaref, with nearly 400 consultations, double the number from the previous month, and community-based activities reaching almost 900 people. This was supported by the establishment of mental health committees and the training of community health workers. In East, Central, and North Darfur States, nearly 40 individuals, including new clients, accessed mental health services, highlighting the ongoing need for emotional and psychological care among displaced communities.

Nutrition screenings using the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) method reached over 31,000 children in refugee camps in Darfur, Gedaref, Kassala, and White Nile States. These screenings identified 710 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 1,832 of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), all of whom were referred for treatment. In Kassala, 43 children with SAM were admitted into nutrition programs. In East and North Darfur States, health partners admitted 287 SAM cases to outpatient therapeutic programmes and 64 MAM cases to supplementary feeding programmes. Additionally, five SAM children with complications were admitted to stabilization centres in Kario (East Darfur) and Al Lait (North Darfur), operated by UNHCR, the Ministry of Health, and WHO.

Disease outbreaks continued to pose serious risks. Suspected cholera cases were reported in East and North Darfur States, while measles cases persisted in Kassala's Shagarab Refugee Camp, with five new cases in May bringing the total to 40 since March. Dengue fever affected nearly 7,500 people, with three deaths reported among displaced and host communities in Khartoum State. Two polio cases were confirmed in West and Central Darfur States. In response, UNHCR and partners continued to support outbreak response, immunization campaigns, and WASH interventions in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and WHO.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

In May 2025, UNHCR and its partners provided essential support to displaced populations across Sudan through the distribution of core relief items and emergency shelter assistance. More than 13,000 IDPs and refugee households were reached, with over 11,500 households receiving CRI kits and 1,700 benefiting from shelter assistance in Al Jazirah, Blue Nile, East Darfur, Gedaref, Kassala, Khartoum, South Darfur, and White Nile States.

In White Nile State, UNHCR's partner distributed 2,660 CRI kits, comprising plastic sheets, blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, solar lamps, jerry cans, and mosquito nets, to refugees in Al Redis I, Aljameja, Alkashafa, Jourie, Al Redis II, and Alwaral Refugee Camps. Additionally, 100 tents were erected for displaced families in Algetaina locality.

In Kassala State, CRI kits were provided to over 1,000 refugee households relocated from Shagarab 1 to Shagarab 3, while tents were pitched for more than 300 relocated South Sudanese families. At the Wad Sharife Reception Centre and safe house, UNHCR supported over 150 individuals, including 125 victims of trafficking, with items such as soap, dignity kits, solar lamps, blankets, mosquito nets, and plastic buckets.

In East Darfur State, 1,600 IDP households in gathering sites received plastic sheeting. Distributions included 250 households in Shairia, 350 in Khazan Jadeed, 300 in Muhajeria, 100 in El Neem, 200 each in Lagawa, Sabreen, and Ed Daein town. In South Darfur's Abu Ajura Refugee Settlement, 750 plastic sheets were distributed to 700 refugee and 50 host community households to strengthen shelter conditions ahead of the rainy season.

In Gedaref State, 148 refugee households received CRI kits, and 194 households received emergency shelter kits. UNHCR and partners also rehabilitated seven multipurpose shelters in Tunaydbah and Babikri Refugee Camps, constructed two communal shelters using local materials, and rehabilitated 51 traditional tukuls in Um Gargour Refugee Camp. As part of the relocation response from Khartoum, 6,300 m³ of marram was provided for backfilling to improve camp accessibility and prevent flooding in Um Gargour.

In North Darfur State, local authorities, COR, and refugee leaders flagged an urgent need for plastic sheeting to repair shelters ahead of the rainy season. Approximately 2,000 shelters have been identified as requiring immediate rehabilitation and reinforcement.

Water, Health, and Sanitation (WASH)

UNHCR and partners rehabilitated 70 communal latrines, dislodged 52 non-functional latrines, decommissioned 50, and constructed 40 new latrines in Joda Reception Centre, Khor Alwareel, and Umsangour Refugee Camps in White Nile State to expand sanitation coverage and address open defecation. These efforts improved safe sanitation access for 7,700 refugees and asylum-seekers.

UNHCR's partner distributed personal hygiene kits to close to 61,000 women and girls of reproductive age in Al Ganaa Refugee Camp, White Nile State, in May. This brought the cumulative coverage in the camp to 121,510 individuals since the beginning of the year.

In Kassala State, UNHCR's partner, together with authorities, conducted environmental sanitation awareness raising training for 20 members of refugee-led organizations and community committees and led a clean-up campaign across Wad Sharifey and Shagarab Refugee Camps, collecting and disposing 208 metric tonnes of waste in safe and designated areas. Additionally, hygiene promotion activities were carried out through home visits, reaching over 3,900 individuals across Wad Sharifey and Girba Refugee camps, with key messages on handwashing, personal hygiene, and prevention of acute watery diarrhoea.

UNHCR's partner expanded the solar panel system in the water treatment plant in Tunaydbah Refugee camp, Gedaref State, adding 26 panels. Another 130 latrines in three refugee camps were dislodged.

In South Darfur State, the water supply system in Al Mashaga refugee settlement is not functioning due to a shortage of fuel. The increased demand for water from refugee and host communities has required extended generator operating hours, increasing fuel consumption. As a result, water availability has been intermittently disrupted, raising concerns about sustained access to safe water for affected populations and increasing the risk of disease spread.

Cash Assistance

In May 2025, UNHCR and its implementing partners provided cash-based assistance to 3,462 IDPs (1,200 households) across Wadi Halfa, Kassala, Blue Nile, Port Sudan, and Gedaref State. The total amount disbursed during the month reached USD 536,500. Between January and May 2025, a cumulative total of 8,558 individuals (3,400 households) benefited from cash assistance, with total disbursements amounting to USD 1.2 million.

A key component of the cash-for-protection programme has been its focus on extremely vulnerable returnees in Northern State, with close to 8,000 returnees supported since the initiative was launched in October 2024. In May, UNHCR distributed cash to 330 refugee households in Port Sudan (Red Sea State) and over 2,600 vulnerable returnees in Wadi Halfa (Northern State) to address urgent protection needs.

In South Darfur State, UNHCR's partner provided individual protection cash assistance to 400 vulnerable IDPs in Kalma, Dereig, Mershing, Gereida, and Otash camps, with each recipient receiving the equivalent of USD 180 in Sudanese pounds. This support is aimed at enhancing the dignity, safety, and resilience of individuals at heightened protection risk. Additionally, in Gedaref State, UNHCR distributed monthly multi-purpose cash grants to 82 IDP households, each receiving SDG 360,000 (approximately USD 590) per month to cover basic needs.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Highlights

- Insecurity persisted throughout May in Vakaga prefecture, with reports of regular patrols by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and road bandits. Illegal checkpoints continued to be used for extortion, obstructing humanitarian access, and endangering civilians. Reports of human rights abuses by NSAGs, such as armed robbery, assaults, arbitrary arrests, and extortion, remained a concern. In Birao, several thefts and burglaries targeting humanitarian staff were reported. In

Bamingui-Bangoran, concerns persisted over the presence of NSAGs and the recruitment of children.

- Water and sanitation conditions in Korsi continued to deteriorate. The daily water supply remains at just 9.6 litres per person, well below the Sphere standard of 15 litres. In May, the latrine-to-person ratio reached 1:67, exceeding the Sphere emergency threshold of 1:50. Over 12,100 people urgently need improved sanitation, requiring the construction of 722 additional latrines. To help address these needs, Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH), UNICEF's partner, and All for Peace and Dignity (APADE), a partner of UN Women, resumed construction of water and sanitation facilities.

Population Movement and Registration

The number of new Sudanese arrivals in Birao declined significantly in late May compared to April and March. Fewer than 300 new arrivals were recorded during the month, below the weekly average in April. This decrease may be linked to the onset of the rainy season.

As of 31 May, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) have registered 26,675 Sudanese refugees (10,634 families) in Kosi. Of those registered, 56 per cent are women and girls, and 59 per cent are children.

Protection

UNHCR's partner, Le Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement (CIAUD), recorded 82 protection incidents in Vakaga prefecture, primarily affecting host communities (around 90 per cent of cases), with most victims being male. Reported incidents included property violations (such as theft, robbery, and extortion), physical assaults, gender-based violence, torture, and other forms of inhumane treatment. These violations are reportedly committed by non-state armed groups, particularly active in the Birao and Ouandja sub-prefectures.

To help monitor and prevent such violations, UNHCR and CIAUD conducted several awareness-raising sessions with refugees and host communities in Korsi, Birao, and nearby areas. These sessions focused on early marriage, children's rights, social cohesion, parental responsibility in child protection, and non-discrimination between refugees and host populations. More than 400 people participated in interactive discussions, testimonies, and experience-sharing sessions, strengthening awareness and community engagement, especially among women and children.

Accountability to the affected population (AAP)

In May, UNHCR's partner CIAUD collected 329 refugee inquiries through the Information Center in Korsi. These inquiries focused on issues such as coordination within Korsi, food assistance, shelter construction, hygiene, and registration. To strengthen community awareness and engagement, door-to-door information sessions reached 513 individuals, addressing topics such as complaints and feedback mechanisms (including the Complaint Box, Green Line, and discussion forums), as well as protection concerns affecting women and children. Additionally, 12 members of the complaints committee were trained on their roles, responsibilities, and how to handle complaints effectively, helping to build a more inclusive and responsive Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) system.

Protection

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response:

In May, among the GBV survivors who came forward in Birao, 30 per cent were minors and 70 per cent were adult women. All survivors received psychosocial support at the safe space in Korsi. Prevention efforts continued in Birao, with 10 focus group discussions conducted with both host communities and refugees. These sessions addressed key topics including the various forms of violence against women and girls, early and forced marriage, psychological abuse, referral pathways, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). A total of 305 people participated, contributing to greater community awareness and engagement on GBV-related issues.

Child protection:

In May, the Child-Friendly Space in Korsi engaged 517 children in a variety of recreational, educational, and cultural activities, including football, traditional dance, singing, and rope skipping. These sessions supported children's psychosocial well-being and social resilience in a safe and inclusive environment.

Nonetheless, a small number of child protection violations were reported, highlighting ongoing risks often linked to economic hardship and limited parental capacity to provide consistent care.

Peaceful coexistence:

Several initiatives were undertaken to strengthen peaceful coexistence and social cohesion between refugee and host communities. These included conflict management workshops facilitated by UNHCR's partner CIAUD, as well as the establishment of joint conflict resolution committees. In Birao, CIAUD conducted two awareness sessions attended by 94 participants, focusing on mutual tolerance, social harmony, and conflict prevention. Additionally, the community relay in Ridina reached over 273 people, including refugees, returnees, and host community members, with awareness messages on peaceful coexistence.

Education

In May, UNHCR and its partners, Centre de Support en Santé Internationale (CSSI) and Olivier l'Homme de Galilée pour le Développement Social (OHG DS), in collaboration with the Academic Inspection of Vakaga, carried out activities to improve education access for Sudanese refugee and host community students in Birao.

A total of 2,606 newly arrived Sudanese refugee students were enrolled in the national education system or a bridging programme, including 2,273 in primary, 304 in secondary, and 30 in tertiary education. This represents a 40 per cent increase in primary enrolment and a fivefold increase in secondary compared to the same time last year. For the first time, tertiary education opportunities have been made available, including an integrated language programme ahead of university enrolment in Bangui.

In Birao, 326 students (60 per cent of them girls) attended afternoon language classes, and 250 kits (notebooks, folders, pens) were distributed. Additionally, 135 students (including 35 refugees) preparing for the Certificat d'Études Fondamentales received exam support classes and school kits, thanks to Education Cannot Wait.

To promote school attendance and exam participation, CSSI and OHG DS worked with community relay networks of refugee and host youth and held meetings with parents, teachers, and refugee leaders to highlight the importance of education.

Challenges remain, particularly students dropping out due to the lack of food during school hours and cultural food practices. A school feeding programme by WFP and partners is set to begin in June 2025. These combined efforts, along with planned teacher training and stronger community engagement, aim to improve student retention, exam success, and the integration of refugee students into the national system.

Shelter and non-food items (NFIs)

Despite funding cuts, and in line with efforts to promote sustainable solutions, the shelter approach now focuses on allocating plots to refugees, enabling them to build their own shelters using provided tarpaulins. In May, 118 refugee families received 10x15 meter plots for emergency shelter construction, while 1,200 persons with specific needs received tarpaulins in Korsi.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

UNHCR's partner NOURRIR continued to conduct hygiene awareness campaigns within the refugee community in Korsi, despite challenges related to limited facilities. In May, they engaged families through focus groups, block-by-block activities, and door-to-door outreach, reaching 36,918 people (21,385 families) during the last two weeks of the month. The campaigns covered topics such as water point management, sanitation maintenance, and household hygiene practices.

Food Security and Livelihood

Market gardening activities continued under the FAO project, targeting Sudanese refugees in Korsi and host communities. As of 31 May, 51 out of 95 planned groups had been established, each with an average of 25 members. Awareness campaigns are ongoing to encourage voluntary enrolment. Meanwhile, UNHCR and its partner CIAUD, in collaboration with FAO, MINUSCA, and others, continued identifying beneficiaries for these initiatives.

WFP provided dry food assistance (rice and beans) and XAF 5,500 (approx. USD 10) per person in cash to 18,405 individuals from 6,160 families, distributing a total of 153.95 tons of food. Additionally, cash

assistance was provided to 5,262 families (15,614 individuals), amounting to XAF 28,941,000 (approx. USD 50,428).

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) supported women's refugee groups with income-generating activity (IGA) kits, including household and cooking supplies.

Health and Nutrition

In May, medical teams from UNHCR partners the Centre de Support en Santé Internationale (CSSI) and International Medical Corps (IMC), coordinated by the Vakaga health district, carried out 2,159 medical consultations in Korsi. Of these, 1,910 consultations (88 per cent) were for refugees, including 272 new arrivals (14 per cent), and 249 consultations (12 per cent) were for the host population. Among the total, 673 children aged 0 to 59 months (31 per cent) were treated. Since the start of 2025, 15,944 consultations have been recorded, with approximately 11 per cent for the host community.

The most frequently diagnosed illnesses remained acute respiratory infections (33 per cent), followed by malaria (21 per cent) and intestinal parasitic diseases (13 per cent). Most patients were treated at health facilities in Korsi, while 26 outpatients (1.2 per cent) were referred to Birao District Hospital for further care.

In terms of maternal and reproductive health, 69 displaced women received antenatal consultations in May, bringing the total to 621 since the beginning of the year. Ten postnatal consultations were conducted during the month, raising the total to 49, while 31 women received gynecological consultations, for a cumulative total of 649 in 2025. Nine women accessed family planning services, with the yearly total reaching 132. Ten safe births were recorded at the Korsi health facility in May, bringing the total number of births to 63 in 2025. All deliveries were attended by qualified health workers.

Additionally, 673 children aged 6 to 59 months were screened for malnutrition during medical consultations. Among them, 55 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 27 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were identified. Since January, 4,735 children have been screened, with 217 MAM and 76 SAM cases recorded. Between 17 and 23 May, nutritional support was provided to 1,195 pregnant and lactating women and 663 children in Korsi.

Preventive health services also continued. In May, 18 pregnant women were vaccinated against tetanus, and 20 children received multi-antigen vaccines. Twenty-seven new cases of mental illness were identified and treated, including 14 among refugees and 13 among host community members.

CHAD

Highlights

- In 2025, over 133,244 Sudanese refugees have arrived in eastern Chad (making a total of 856,783 since the onset of the conflict), including more than 78,533 since 23 April in Wadi Fira and Ennedi Est provinces, now the epicentre of the latest influx.
- In response, UNHCR, the Government of Chad, and partners [conducted](#) multi-sectoral assessments (covering education, WASH, health, MHPSS, PSEA, and protection) to inform the emergency response and highlight critical gaps and funding needs. Between April and May, 27,510 individuals have been relocated from Tine to the Iridimi site in Wadi Fira, while 17,982 remain awaiting relocation.
- Following the latest wave of arrivals, the Government of Chad [called](#) for urgent international support for the Wadi Fira and Ennedi Est response. During a press event, the Ministry of Social Action shared findings from a joint mission (9–12 May).
- On 23 and 27 May, the Prime Minister and key partners emphasized the urgency of accelerating refugee relocations from border areas, citing both humanitarian and security concerns. Although over 100,000 refugees have been relocated since January 2025, more than 240,000, primarily in Adré, remain in extremely vulnerable conditions due to limited resources. A two-phase plan has been proposed to relocate refugees to existing sites and to identify new settlement locations.

Population Movements and Registration

The Chad operation continues to face major challenges due to critical underfunding, insufficient health facilities and equipment, limited water supply, and reduced partner capacity resulting from staff cuts. The impact of these funding shortfalls is severe: one health centre serves 70,000 people; there is one doctor

for every 52,000 patients; school-aged children have no access to education; 14 per cent of children are malnourished; protection services are limited; and the daily water supply is just 5 litres per person.

Between 1 and 31 May, a total of 6,186 Sudanese refugee households (20,190 individuals) were interviewed shortly after arriving in Chad. Insecurity was the main reason for flight (58 per cent), with many reporting human rights violations (67 per cent), including physical attacks (26 per cent) and extortion (24 per cent). Nearly 45 per cent of the new arrivals reported having family members still in Sudan, citing lack of transport, fear of arrest, or risk of forced recruitment as the main reasons. Key findings include: 62 per cent said their children had dropped out of school, while 96 per cent have school-aged children. Only 44 per cent reported access to medical care for children and 29 per cent to hygiene services. Some 66 per cent of households lack documentation, mainly due to loss or destruction during displacement. When asked about information needs, 48 per cent sought guidance on accessing services, 20 per cent on available aid, 19 per cent on their rights, and 12 per cent on news from Sudan.

In Abéché, 444 urban asylum seekers were registered at the One Stop Centre, with Central Africans accounting for 95 per cent. In Sila province, 933 individuals (285 households) were registered at the Kerfi refugee site, and 200 refugee attestations were issued. In Adré, Ouaddaï Province, 869 individuals (286 households) were pre-registered.

Due to funding constraints, 69,614 new arrivals in the Wadi Fira and Ennedi Est provinces have only been pre-registered. The available resources do not permit Level II biometric registration, which would provide comprehensive individual data and documentation.

Relocation

In the Wadi Fira Province, 27,510 new arrivals have been relocated from the Tine border crossing point to the Iridimi refugee site. In the Ouaddaï Province, 983 individuals (229 households) were relocated from Adré to Dougui and Kouchaguine-Moura.

Protection

Child protection

In the Wadi Fira and Ennedi Est provinces, which have become the epicenter of the new influx, updated response plans and referral pathways for child protection and injury cases have been established at the border crossing points. Four children with gunshot wounds were identified, and a Mobile Child Protection Team provided them with psychosocial support. Arabic-language PSEA and Child Protection materials were also displayed to inform new arrivals about available services. As of 30 May, 1,922 at-risk children have been registered in Wadi Fira and Ennedi Est during this latest influx, including 1,304 separated and unaccompanied minors and 27 children with injuries.

Community-based protection

On 19 May, a training on community leadership and the UNHCR Code of Conduct was jointly conducted by APLFT (Association pour la Promotion des Libertés Fondamentales au Tchad), CNARR (Commission Nationale d'Accueil, de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés), and UNHCR for community leaders in Dougui. The session saw strong participation from both men and women.

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

An assessment conducted in the Wadi Fira and Ennedi Est provinces among new arrivals revealed cases of sexual violence and severe trauma experienced by Sudanese women and girls due to ongoing conflict. The assessment also identified urgent needs for psychosocial support, medical care, and assistance for children with disabilities and orphaned infants.

Legal protection

To combat statelessness, 85 new births were registered in Sila province, 68 in Goz Amir, and 17 in Djabal refugee sites. Four children at risk of statelessness were identified in Goz Amir.

Awareness sessions in Ouaddaï reached 1,688 people with messages on child protection and children's rights. Additional sessions held in Arkoum, Alacha, Bredjing, and Tréguine informed 159 participants about refugee rights and responsibilities, including how to use refugee attestations.

Inter-Agency Coordination

From 21 to 22 May, a joint EU/UNHCR/WFP mission visited key project sites in Farchana to monitor the EU-funded INTPA initiative. The team assessed water and agricultural activities, engaged with local stakeholders, and discussed a coordinated response strategy for eastern Chad under the Nexus approach.

From 8 to 9 May, UNHCR hosted an ECHO mission led by the Regional WASH, Shelter, and Infrastructure Advisor for West and Central Africa, based in Dakar. Accompanied by UNHCR and UNICEF, the mission reviewed the water supply situation, identified key challenges for potential support, and visited major ECHO-funded activities in Farchana.

Two joint UN missions, comprising UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO, and WFP, also visited villages in Kobe Sud to assess the needs of host communities and explore support opportunities through community-based approaches.

Education

The Departmental Inspectorate of National Education and Civic Promotion of Assoungba donated 885 textbooks to three schools in Extension 2 of the Farchana development site. The donation, which includes 453 mathematics books and 432 Arabic books for early primary levels, aims to support newly deployed teachers unfamiliar with the national curriculum.

Health and Nutrition

In the Ouaddaï Province, 164,213 medical consultations were recorded, including 8,411 new cases in the past week. Among children aged 6 to 59 months, there were 10,125 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and 3,510 cases of severe acute malnutrition. A total of 29,180 pregnant and breastfeeding women were screened, and 946 cases of acute malnutrition were treated. Additionally, 1,061 individuals received mental health care, and 3,277 assisted deliveries took place during the reporting period.

In May, 30,587 individuals received WFP's food ration in Dougui (15,850 individuals), Oure Cassoni (11,791), Kerfi (2,142 individuals), Zabout (804 individuals). Additionally, refugees at the Dougui site received a food donation from the UAE, including rice, sugar, pasta, salt, tomatoes, milk, and tea.

A national vulnerability assessment led by the Chadian government and CNARR, with UN support, began on 28 May 2025, at Oure Cassoni and nearby villages. Covering 155 households over 14 days. The study aims to identify the most vulnerable, including newly arrived refugees, to prioritise assistance amid limited resources.

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

Cash distributions were completed on 7 May for newly arrived refugees in the Koursigué and Milé Extension sites, reaching 15,303 individuals (4,569 households), with each person receiving XAF 16,000 (approx. 28 USD) for two months. Additional distributions supported 5,969 individuals (3,146 households) in Amnabak and 6,408 individuals (2,098 households) in Iridimi. In total, 27,680 individuals (9,813 households) benefited from the assistance.

Shelter, WASH, and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

In Ouaddaï Province, a total of 164,213 medical consultations were conducted, including 8,411 new cases during the last week of May. Among children aged 6 to 59 months, 10,125 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and 3,510 cases of severe acute malnutrition were recorded. Additionally, 29,180 pregnant and breastfeeding women were screened, with 946 cases of acute malnutrition treated. Mental health services reached 1,061 individuals, and 3,277 assisted deliveries were recorded in May.

That same month, WFP provided food rations to 30,587 individuals in Dougui (15,850), Oure Cassoni (11,791), Kerfi (2,142), and Zabout (804). Refugees in Dougui also received a government-donated food package.

On 28 May, a national vulnerability assessment was launched in Oure Cassoni and surrounding villages by the Chadian government and CNARR, with support from the UN. The 14-day study will cover 155 households to identify the most vulnerable individuals, particularly recent arrivals, and guide the prioritization of assistance amid ongoing resource constraints.

Livelihood and Environment

Two spreading threshold sites were handed over to Metché on 13 May, with excavation already underway. In Sila, two additional sites were identified near the Zabout refugee site in collaboration with local authorities. These initiatives aim to support livelihood activities for both refugees and host communities.

Through advocacy with nearby villages, the NIRVANA team secured 463.3 hectares of land for rain-fed and market gardening in Iridimi, Touloum, and Amnabak.

EGYPT

Highlights

- The Government of Egypt (GoE) has officially endorsed the Egypt Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (ERRRP 2025), its first nationally led refugee initiative. The plan will be launched on 24 June at a joint event at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), co-hosted by the MFA, UNHCR, and UNDP, with the participation of key donor partners. This milestone follows nearly two years of dialogue and collaboration. The MFA has welcomed the strong coordination between UNHCR and UNDP in advancing resilience-focused efforts.
- Between 12 and 15 May, UNHCR conducted a mission to Aswan and distributed 68 UNHCR-issued documents to Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers. During a community meeting, Sudanese leaders appreciated the local distribution, citing difficulties traveling to Cairo and urging a continued UNHCR presence in Aswan.
- On 28 May, UNHCR, IOM, and UNDP co-organized a donor briefing in Cairo to update partners on the asylum law, cross-border movements of Sudanese and Syrian nationals, and the impact of recent funding cuts. Representatives from 13 donor embassies and the World Bank attended. Participants expressed particular interest in the asylum system transition, the upcoming launch of the Egypt Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (ERRRP), and the situation of Sudanese refugees in Aswan.
- On 13 May, the UNHCR Representative to Egypt gave a lecture at the Institute of National Planning (INP) in Cairo as part of its “Distinguished Speakers” series. The presentation covered UNHCR’s strategic response in Egypt and key programmes such as Inclusion of Refugees in National Systems (INS), PROSPECT, and MADE51. The session prompted a lively discussion on refugee inclusion, public infrastructure support, and growing tensions and perceptions. This first engagement with the Institute of National Planning (INP), an advisory body to the Cabinet and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, paves the way for future collaboration on sustainable planning.

Population Movements and Registration

In May, UNHCR Egypt registered 30,500 new refugees and asylum-seekers, 90 per cent of whom were new arrivals from Sudan.

Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, UNHCR has provided registration appointments to 937,000 individuals who fled the country. Of these, 664,000 people, or 71 per cent, have been fully registered to receive protection and assistance. Among those newly registered, 96 per cent are Sudanese nationals, followed by Eritreans (1.7 per cent) and South Sudanese (1.6 per cent). Women make up 55 per cent of the registered population, and 41 per cent are children.

Including those who arrived in Egypt before the conflict, the country now hosts 982,000 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR, representing 62 nationalities. Sudanese nationals account for 73 per cent of the total registered population.

Protection

Community-based protection (CBP)

In May, 27,500 refugees and asylum-seekers, including new arrivals from Sudan, received information on available services, assistance, and fraud/complaints procedures from outreach community workers at UNHCR’s Reception Centre in 6th of October City, Greater Cairo. During the same period, UNHCR’s partner Terre des Hommes (TdH) provided basic psychosocial support to 13,000 individuals, referring 120 for in-depth psychosocial assessment and fast-tracking another 550 for urgent assistance. UNHCR’s CBP team also offered counseling to 400 refugees, including 260 through in-person sessions and the remainder remotely.

In May, UNHCR [launched](#) the Community Centers Story Map, an interactive platform that consolidates key information on UNHCR-supported multi-purpose community centers in Greater Cairo. The map features the centers' locations and activities, offering an accessible overview of their services. It also illustrates how these spaces contribute to strengthening social cohesion between refugees and host communities.

On 16 and 28 April, UNHCR facilitated a two-day capacity-building workshop in Alexandria to strengthen the leadership of Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) amid ongoing funding constraints. The training brought together 45 RLOs, representing around 500 refugees across Egypt's North Coast, to enhance skills in community-based protection, response planning, and coordination. Participants received targeted training in needs assessments, ethical community engagement, child protection, and referral systems. As a result, five thematic community committees were formally established, focusing on health, livelihoods, psychosocial support, specific needs, and relief. Each committee is led by elected RLO representatives. This marks a significant shift toward active community leadership. The initiative builds on previous UNHCR work with RLOs and sets the stage for sustained mentorship, local resource mobilization, and knowledge-sharing to reinforce community-led responses and promote inclusion.

From 26 to 27 May, UNHCR participated in the Integrated Urban Planning and Policy Impact through Data and Evidence workshop organized by UN-Habitat in Alexandria. During the event, UNHCR provided an overview of international refugee protection and the current context in Egypt. The agency also emphasized the importance of leveraging data to support both refugees and host communities in urban planning efforts. The workshop introduced participants to the UN-Habitat planning framework and offered practical training in Geographic Information System (GIS) tools to help map and analyze urban data. It fostered collaboration among local and regional stakeholders and promoted evidence-based decision-making to enhance planning in refugee-hosting urban areas.

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

On 21 May, UNHCR and UNFPA, co-leads of the GBV Sub-Working Group (SWG), organized a donor field visit with the participation of embassy representatives from Canada, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The delegation visited two RLOs in Greater Cairo to observe their efforts in GBV prevention and response, with a particular focus on case management and livelihoods support. The visit highlighted the essential role RLOs play as trusted, community-based service providers and emphasized the need for sustained donor investment to strengthen their leadership and impact.

On 13 May, UNHCR participated in the [launch](#) of a study on female genital mutilation (FGM) among the Sudanese community in Cairo, organized by the Tadwein Center for Gender Studies and Equality Now. UNHCR joined a panel discussion to share information about the services it provides to support refugee survivors of FGM. The study examines how displacement influences attitudes and practices related to FGM, providing an in-depth analysis of community perspectives, social dynamics, and the challenges faced by Sudanese refugees in Greater Cairo.

Child protection

On 28 May, UNHCR conducted a child protection training for six officials from the Ministry of Defense. The session covered topics such as Best Interest Procedures and the alternative care process for refugee children. Participants raised several questions, particularly regarding UNHCR's role in securing shelters for children at risk, with a focus on unaccompanied children.

In response to the increasing number of young and vulnerable children who need alternative care, often because their mothers or caregivers face protection risks, UNHCR also delivered a detailed training to its partner, Plan International. The training aimed to strengthen the participants' capacity to establish and manage alternative care arrangements for children at risk. The session was highly interactive, with participants actively contributing to discussions.

Legal and physical protection (LPP)

In May, 2,800 individuals received legal assistance and counselling through UNHCR and its partners, concerning early and late birth registration, filing legal reports, divorce, custody, and legal representation. Additionally, 50 birth certificates were issued during the period.

Infoline

In May, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline responded to 36,800 inquiries. Additionally, an average of some 335 individuals per day fleeing the conflict in Sudan secured registration appointments through the Infoline. Since the crisis began, a total of 619,200 people have successfully been scheduled with appointments using this system.

Education

UNHCR, through its education partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS), organized four community engagement meetings attended by 116 parents. The sessions aimed to share information about the educational services offered by UNHCR and its partners, and to respond to parents' questions and concerns.

In preparation for the launch of UNHCR's bridging classes, 70 refugee students in Cairo sat for an English language placement test. Based on the results, students will be assigned to the appropriate language level to support their learning needs.

Meanwhile, 84 refugee children and youth continued to participate in UNHCR's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme, where they are gaining practical skills in fields such as mobile phone maintenance, car mechanics, advanced tailoring, hairdressing, and electrical installation.

UNHCR and CRS also conducted mentorship interviews with 120 parents of children with disabilities. These sessions aimed to monitor the children's educational progress and provide guidance on addressing any related challenges.

In addition, UNHCR and its partner continued follow-up interviews with DAFI scholars. During the reporting week, 130 scholars living in Cairo, Alexandria, and Damietta met with caseworkers to review their academic progress, discuss any difficulties, and agree on action plans where needed.

Health and Nutrition

The Health Working Group met in the last week of May to coordinate preventive measures ahead of expected heatwaves, to reduce heat-related deaths among new arrivals. In partnership with the Egyptian health authorities, health promotion efforts are being strengthened in Aswan. These include public messaging on how to stay safe and respond to extreme heat conditions. These efforts follow the tragic deaths of at least 80 Sudanese individuals in June 2024, who succumbed to heatstroke and dehydration after crossing into Egypt.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

In May, refugee artisans participated in two events in Cairo to showcase and sell their handmade products. The month-long Spring Flower Exhibition, a popular annual event in the city, featured the work of 26 refugees, including 16 from Sudan, alongside Egyptian artisans from across the country. On 17 May, 21 refugees, including 10 Sudanese, exhibited and sold their crafts at the Irish Embassy in Cairo as part of celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Egypt. Additionally, from 17 to 20 May, eight Sudanese refugee artists also participated in workshops during the third edition of the Empower Her Art Forum, held at the Grand Egyptian Museum. The event provided a platform for creative exchange and skill-building.

Cash assistance

In May, UNHCR provided multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to 74,400 refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt, 65 per cent of whom were from Sudan. However, due to funding shortfalls, assistance for approximately 6,000 vulnerable individuals had to be suspended. UNHCR is offering counselling to those affected and exploring support through livelihood interventions.

Despite efforts to scale up support, over 100,000 Sudanese refugees with high levels of poverty remain on the MPCA waiting list. These individuals meet the eligibility criteria for assistance but cannot be reached due to limited funding. Since the onset of the Sudan crisis in April 2023, UNHCR has assessed the vulnerability of 180,000 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers, including both recent arrivals and those already in Egypt before the crisis.

A joint Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise by Egypt's Cash Working Group found that the top expenditure areas for MPCA recipients were food (75 per cent), rent (59 per cent), and healthcare (26 per

cent). However, only 16 per cent of them were able to meet more than half of their basic needs. The current transfer value covers less than one-quarter of the Subsistence Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which has increased by 2.5 per cent since December 2024.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- UNHCR maintains unrestricted access to refugee sites in both the Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz regions, despite growing security challenges, particularly in Amhara.
- The security situation in Amhara Region, especially across West Gondar, South Gondar, North Gondar, and Central Gondar zones, sharply deteriorated during the reporting period due to escalating armed clashes between government forces and unidentified armed groups (UAGs). These clashes have triggered a surge in abductions, shootings, robberies, and attacks on public and humanitarian transport, heightening risks to civilians and humanitarian actors.
- On 26 May, UAGs launched the “Operations Quara Covenant” campaign in Gondar, triggering coordinated attacks that further destabilized the region.
- Areas such as Chilga and East Dembiya woredas remain particularly tense, with multiple incidents reported. Since 31 May, Genda Wuha and Metema towns have faced a complete power outage, possibly linked to the conflict. Military presence and patrols have intensified along key routes in Amhara.
- Several security incidents have directly impacted humanitarian and civilian transport during May, including attacks on public minibuses, shooting of commercial drivers, and commandeering of NGO vehicles.
- The situation in Benishangul-Gumuz remains calm and stable, including at Kurmuk Transit Centre, Ura Refugee Settlement, and Sherkole Refugee Camp.
- UNHCR and partners marked a major milestone in Aftit Settlement, Amhara Region, with the pre-commissioning of a permanent water system delivering clean, treated water to 22 access points, including schools and host areas.

Population Movements and Registration

In the Amhara Region, the refugee registration exercise officially began on 20 May, marking a milestone in the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia’s National Identification Program (NIDP). This voluntary process facilitates access to essential services such as employment, banking, work permits, and freedom of movement for work or education. By 31 May, 989 individuals had been registered, with 829 consenting to NIDP inclusion. Additionally, 100 ID cards and 80 Proof of Registration (POR) documents were issued.

In Benishangul-Gumuz Region, 496 individuals (142 households) were registered at Level 1 at the Kurmuk Transit Centre, bringing the cumulative population there to 30,969 individuals (9,874 households) since 15 April 2023. The displacement continues to be driven by the conflict in Sudan. At Ura Refugee Settlement, 5,914 individuals (2,082 households) were biometrically registered and verified during the reporting period, and 5,431 were enrolled in the NIDP.

Relocation

In Benishangul-Gumuz Region, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and other partners, facilitated two relocation convoys during the reporting period. A total of 673 individuals (192 households) were successfully relocated from the Kurmuk Transit Centre to the Ura refugee site. This brings the total population at Ura to 13,379 individuals (4,770 households), including those who have self-relocated.

Protection

In the Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz regions, UNHCR and partners continued to implement a range of protection interventions, including individual and group counselling, community feedback mechanisms, and timely referrals to services to address specific protection needs and strengthen community-based systems.

In the Amhara Region, UNHCR and protection partners (Inter-Church Development AID (DICAC), Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (HIS), and Plan International Ethiopia (PIE)) maintained dedicated

protection desks at the Aftit refugee settlement site. These desks, supported by trained community protection volunteers and staff, served as one-stop centres for sharing information, receiving complaints, and facilitating referrals. During the reporting period, 23 complaints were registered, of which 21 were resolved by the end of the month. The remaining cases are related to health services and registration of new arrivals. Seven individuals with specific needs were referred to receive tailored support.

Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response

In the Amhara Region, UNHCR and its partner DICAC continued to provide confidential, survivor-centred GBV services at Aftit Refugee Settlement. Survivors received tailored psychosocial support and case management in a safe environment, while Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) facilitated life skills training, recreational sessions, and social support activities to foster resilience and empowerment.

To strengthen community awareness and engagement, UNHCR and its partners organized seven awareness-raising sessions throughout May, reaching over 500 individuals, including women, girls, and men. These sessions covered GBV risks, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), available support services, and safe reporting mechanisms. The discussions helped identify the specific needs and perceptions of women and girls and provided crucial information on their rights and the support available.

In Benishangul-Gumuz Region, UNHCR's partner, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), continued GBV prevention and response programming at Ura refugee site. Survivors were provided with psychosocial care, material support, and referrals to specialized services. A total of 309 individuals (176 women and 133 men) participated in awareness-raising sessions focused on early marriage and confidentiality in GBV reporting. Additionally, home visits addressing issues of sexual and physical violence reached 310 individuals (166 women and 144 men).

WGSS activities in Ura also engaged 185 women and girls in empowerment initiatives such as handicrafts, hairdressing, and traditional coffee and tea ceremonies, providing safe spaces for open dialogue on GBV-related topics.

Further capacity-building efforts included EMAP (Engaging Men in Accountable Practices) training for 75 community leaders, incentive workers, and advocacy group members. IRC also trained 110 social workers (89 women and 21 men) in basic GBV concepts to strengthen the quality and reach of services within the community.

These combined efforts reflect a comprehensive and inclusive approach to GBV prevention, survivor support, and community-based protection, with a focus on dignity, confidentiality, and empowerment.

Child Protection

In the Amhara Region, UNHCR partners PIE and IHS operated a semi-permanent Child-Friendly Space (CFS) at Aftit Refugee Settlement, providing a safe environment for 552 children to access recreational, pre-education, and psychosocial activities that support their development and resilience. In parallel, child protection case management services continued: 125 children at risk were identified and assessed, with Best Interests Assessments (BIA) conducted for 23 of them. Of these, 25 were referred for further support, mainly for non-food items and medical services, with all cases closed by month's end. In total, 755 at-risk children were identified in May, covering approximately 65 per cent of the annual target.

Awareness-raising efforts in Aftit also continued. Four sessions on children's rights, access to education, and positive parenting reached 324 participants, while two additional sessions introduced the community-based child protection networks, engaging 23 community members. These activities aimed to strengthen early identification and referral of children at risk.

In Benishangul-Gumuz Region, at Ura refugee site, UNHCR and PIE identified and registered 67 separated children (28 boys, 39 girls), all of whom received comprehensive support through BIA, alternative care, psychosocial assistance, regular follow-up, and referrals. Meanwhile, 2,635 children (1,466 boys, 1,169 girls) engaged in structured recreational, cultural, and non-formal learning activities at the site's CFS, contributing to their well-being and social integration.

These efforts reflect a coordinated, child-centred response aimed at protecting the rights and safety of displaced children while promoting their recovery, development, and inclusion.

Health and Nutrition

In May, the Aftit Health Facility in Amhara Region, supported by Medical Teams International (MTI) and World Vision Ethiopia (WVE), provided 2,462 consultations, including 1,855 for adults (1,260 refugees, 595 host community) and 607 for children under five (446 refugees, 161 host community).

Maternal and reproductive health remained a priority, with 129 women (106 refugees and 23 from the host community) receiving antenatal care. Skilled personnel assisted 19 deliveries (13 refugee, 6 host), while 70 women received postnatal care, 36 accessed modern family planning, and 41 pregnant women benefited from ultrasound services.

Nutrition interventions supported 10 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) through Outpatient Therapeutic Programs (OTP), and 113 with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) via Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programs (TSFP). Additionally, 1,028 refugee children were enrolled in Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programs (BSFP). Among pregnant and lactating women (PLWs), 70 MAM cases (30 refugees, 40 host community) were supported through TSFP, while 248 refugee PLWs received BSFP assistance. Six SAM cases with complications received cash assistance through the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) committee to support recovery.

Community-based nutrition outreach included cooking demonstrations, mother-to-mother support groups, breastfeeding discussions, and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling. Nutrition and health education reached 2,244 individuals, and health staff were trained on Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) and Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI).

Preventive health efforts in Aftit included deworming for 20 mothers, iron-folate supplementation for 102 pregnant women, and tetanus-diphtheria vaccination for 45 pregnant women. A measles campaign immunized 645 children; 492 received Vitamin A supplements and 362 were dewormed. Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) services reached 49 children with various vaccine doses.

To improve inpatient SAM care, Plan International Ethiopia (PIE) donated essential equipment to Metema General Hospital and Metema Yohanes Health Center and covered meal and referral costs for one caretaker and a child receiving treatment.

Nutrition-focused efforts also included individual counselling for 36 PLWs and group sessions for 160 caregivers, emphasizing maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN). Hygiene education was delivered alongside MIYCN activities by community health workers and school mothers.

Screening for malnutrition was conducted for 350 children under five and 160 PLWs. GOAL Ethiopia supported 821 outpatient consultations at Metema General Hospital and provided maternal and child health services, including 299 assisted deliveries, 144 first ANC visits, 588 follow-up ANC visits, and breastfeeding counselling for 299 mothers. Referral services at Metema continue to serve both refugee and host communities.

Mass awareness campaigns on Mpox reached over 5,000 refugees, conducted in collaboration with Refugee Central Committee (RCC) members. Health workers received onsite Mpox training, and 34 community health workers (CHWs) were trained on Mpox and other epidemic-prone diseases.

Health education sessions in Aftit reached both refugee and host communities, covering a broad range of topics. These included sexual and reproductive health (1,901 participants), cholera prevention, infection prevention and control (IPC), and proper medication use (3,273 participants), communicable and non-communicable diseases (7,415 participants), and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) (2,089 participants). Additionally, 96 individuals (76 refugees and 20 host community) received MHPSS consultations, and 88 patients were referred for advanced care—78 to Metema General Hospital and 10 to Gondar Tertiary Hospital.

At Aftit, Plan International Ethiopia (PIE) conducted two rounds of food distributions. The first reached 1,902 refugees and 201 vulnerable host community households (with potatoes, maize flour, and wheat flour). The second round targeted refugees (with rice, onions, and fresh beans).

GOAL Ethiopia ensured continuous medical care at Aftit Health Center by deploying four BSc nurses, two lab technicians, and one midwife to cover weekends and night shifts. Protection services remained active through the site's protection desk, and two patients were successfully referred to Addis Ababa for specialized treatment.

In Benishangul-Gumuz, UNHCR and Medical Teams International (MTI) provided 3,009 consultations at the Akuda-Tumet Health Center in Ura. The most common ailments were respiratory infections, pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria. A measles vaccination campaign, in collaboration with the regional health bureau, reached 1,551 children, alongside Vitamin A supplements for 1,667 children and deworming for 1,114.

Nutrition screening at Kurmuk Transit Centre and Ura refugee site, led by GOAL, covered 2,607 children under five and 492 pregnant/lactating women. Of these, 60 children were diagnosed with MAM and 20 with SAM and were enrolled in relevant feeding programs.

Shelter, Infrastructure, Site Development, and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

In the Amhara Region, a final inspection and verification were conducted for completed infrastructure and shelter works in Aftit. This covered 1,355 emergency shelters, a registration office block, two police posts, ten culvert installations, and 8.1 km of gravel roads. A multi-functional team (MFT), including technical focal points, jointly planned, measured, and documented the completed works, including school blocks constructed by Plan International Ethiopia (PIE). Verification of 257 sustainable shelters is still ongoing. Based on the inspection, corrective works were initiated by contractors, especially on the registration office, Maternal and Child Health (MCH) unit, and Outpatient Department (OPD) facilities, ahead of the final handover.

The transition from outgoing shelter partner Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) to NRC progressed with the successful warehouse and inventory handover. CRIs are now being transported from ANE's warehouse, and NRC's shelter team has deployed to the field. A rapid shelter needs assessment was completed, and planning meetings were held with the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), the Refugee Central Committee, and the Shelter Committee to ensure coordinated implementation.

At the Ura refugee settlement in Benishangul-Gumuz, 52 additional shelters were completed during the reporting period, bringing the total to 2,628. Verification of 2024 shelter and infrastructure works is underway using a Kobo-based tool. Trained refugee data collectors have measured and verified 333 shelters to date, ensuring quality and accountability in line with the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) audit recommendations and promoting community participation.

Education

In May, education activities progressed steadily in Aftit Settlement (Amhara Region), with 899 children enrolled in primary and 308 in secondary school. Since the academic year began in September 2024, UNHCR has implemented an "Inclusion from the Start" approach, enabling refugee and host community children to learn together in integrated classrooms. To support academic achievement, tutorial classes for 118 students in Grades 6 and 8 continued, focusing on core subjects in preparation for the Primary School Leaving Certificate Examination in June 2025. Model exams were conducted to assess student readiness.

A bi-annual workshop held at Aftit Primary School brought together 708 students (456 refugees, 252 host community), Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA), Refugee Central Committee (RCC), and teaching staff to promote dialogue, integration, and best practices for social cohesion.

UNHCR also distributed textbooks for Grades 6 and 8 and organized a three-day Education in Emergencies (EiE) training for 23 teachers (14 women), focusing on inclusion, child participation, and conflict sensitivity. A five-day training further enhanced teachers' skills in play-based learning and lesson planning.

A two-day dialogue session involving 26 stakeholders discussed strategies for integrating refugee education into the national system and strengthening harmony between refugee and host communities.

At the Ura refugee settlement site, in partnership with Plan International Ethiopia (PIE) and the Regional Education Bureau, the teaching and learning process continued for 2,327 students (1,252 boys, 1,075

girls) at Akuda-Tumet Inclusive Primary School. Model exams were administered to 103 Grade 6 and 112 Grade 8 students ahead of regional assessments.

To expand access and improve infrastructure, PIE is constructing a new four-classroom block (36 per cent complete) and an Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centre (26 per cent complete) at the Ura site.

These efforts reflect a holistic approach to education, combining inclusion, teacher training, academic support, and infrastructure development to benefit both refugee and host children.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

On 20 May, the community at Aftit Settlement in Amhara Region marked the pre-commissioning of the Aftit Permanent Water System, a major milestone delivering clean, treated water to 22 access points, including schools and host areas. Powered by two boreholes and soon to be connected to a 150,000-liter reservoir, the system is expected to provide a reliable, long-term water supply for both refugees and host communities.

Throughout May, Plan International Ethiopia (PIE) supplied an average of 94,333 liters of chlorinated water per day to the refugee population in Aftit, plus 60,000 liters to the primary school and 15,000 liters to the health center. However, the per capita water supply stood at 12.18 liters/day, below UNHCR's post-emergency standard of 20 l/p/d. PIE conducted 190 Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) tests, with all results meeting quality standards.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) advanced water infrastructure development by completing two 75,000-liter reservoirs, applying waterproof painting, and testing water storage. They also installed 9.5 kilometers of distribution pipelines, constructed 22 water points and 9 taps, and rehabilitated a borehole and elevated reservoir in Gende Wuha, later handed over to the town's utility office. The borehole is expected to be integrated into the broader water system.

On hygiene promotion, Innovation Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) continued home-to-home outreach, reaching 700 households with cholera prevention messages. Meanwhile, PIE conducted awareness campaigns that reached 965 individuals, focusing on personal hygiene, safe water storage, and food hygiene. IHS also finalized and officially handed over semi-permanent latrine and shower blocks to the community, further improving sanitation infrastructure.

In Benishangul-Gumuz Region, IRC maintained a potable water supply at 20 l/p/d at the Ura refugee settlement, meeting humanitarian standards. Efforts to extend water access to the Akuda host community and Ura town are ongoing. So far, 2 km of trenching and 1 km of pipeline welding have been completed toward a 5.5-kilometer pipeline extension that will serve local schools and health facilities.

Sanitation efforts at Ura included the construction of 228 latrine blocks (four seats each), serving approximately 22,800 people. In addition, with support from Irish Aid, IRC began work on 694 household latrines, with excavation completed for 57 and slab production underway for 117.

These integrated WASH interventions are improving public health, safety, and dignity for refugee and host populations.

Food Security

In Aftit (Amhara Region), the General Food Distribution (GFD) for May 2025 took place from 27 to 31 May, reaching 5,939 individuals (2,868 households) with their monthly food entitlements.

In the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, the May GFD was also completed successfully, with 11,876 beneficiaries in Ura receiving food rations, an important achievement despite ongoing logistical and operational challenges.

Livelihoods, Energy, Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

In Benishangul-Gumuz Region, UNHCR, together with the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), the Regional Bureau of Agriculture, and partner Good Neighbors Ethiopia (GNE), conducted a joint visit to government-allocated agricultural land at the Ura refugee settlement. The visit aimed to assess the site

and discuss the launch of a PRM-funded agricultural project, previously delayed due to a temporary U.S. funding freeze.

In the Amhara Region, a joint implementation plan was finalized for the construction of 109 sustainable shelters in Aftit using a hybrid CBI model. In this approach, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) will procure and distribute materials, while UNHCR will provide cash assistance to refugee households to cover labor costs and manage their own construction. A Multi-Functional Team (MFT) from UNHCR, RRS, and NRC developed the phasing strategy, estimated costs, and a vulnerability assessment tool to guide beneficiary selection and ensure the support reaches the most in need.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- Spontaneous returns to Sudan are increasing due to worsening conditions in Maban camps; tens of thousands have returned to Blue Nile State, with many now stranded at the Joda border..
- Worsening malnutrition among new arrivals, with GAM rates reaching 45 per cent in children and nearly 50 per cent in pregnant/breastfeeding women in Jamjang, well above emergency thresholds.
- UNHCR completed relocations from Abyei and will close the transit centre and field office due to funding constraints, further limiting response capacity in the north.

Population Movement and Registration

As of 31 May, 1,170,235 individuals have arrived in South Sudan since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan. Of these, 68 per cent are South Sudanese returnees and 31 per cent are Sudanese refugees. The Joda/Renk border remains the main entry point, accounting for 72 per cent of all arrivals.

Protection

A total of 142 individuals from Kosti and surrounding areas were forcibly returned to South Sudan from Sudan, bringing the total number recorded in 2025 to 3,734 individuals. UNHCR is continuing to provide psychosocial and other support to affected individuals, most of whom are women and children.

Relocation

Between 19–22 May, UNHCR successfully relocated 553 individuals (250 households) from Abyei Transit Center to Wedweil settlement, completing all relocations from the site. The closure of the transit centre and the UNHCR Abyei Field Office will follow, due to funding constraints. Moving forward, new arrivals will need to reach refugee-hosting areas independently or seek support from the RRC or other local actors.

UNHCR has observed a rising number of spontaneous returns to Sudan's Blue Nile State, with over 8,400 individuals having self-repatriated from Maban camps, Yusuf Batil, Gendressa, and Kaya camps. Refugees cite deteriorating conditions in the camps, particularly limited access to food, healthcare, education, and tensions with host communities, as key drivers. While some perceive conditions in Damazine as more favorable, it remains unclear whether returns are fully voluntary or influenced by external pressures. Moreover, many of those who have left Maban remain stranded at the Joda border in Renk, due to a lack of funds to cover their transportation needs. UNHCR is continuing to liaise with counterparts in Sudan to respond appropriately.

As of 1 June, IOM has suspended all relocation movements from Renk Transit Centre to Malakal Transit Centre and from Malakal onwards. This will also impact UNHCR refugee relocations, as many refugees were transported to refugee settlements through IOM. UNHCR is working closely with donors and local governments to explore additional relocation options. This effort is crucial due to the ongoing daily arrivals that risk overcrowding transit centers in the coming weeks if a solution is not found.

Health and Nutrition

The May nutrition screening in Jamjang revealed alarmingly high levels of acute malnutrition among new arrivals, with Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates of 45.0 per cent in children aged 6–59 months and 49.7 per cent in pregnant and breastfeeding women. These figures are significantly above the January–May 2025 averages of 17.8 per cent for children and slightly lower than the 49.9 per cent for women, triggering further investigation by health partners. All diagnosed cases have been referred for further treatment.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

In Renk, an inter-agency mission was conducted in Jalhak to address needs. The mission was carried out in coordination with local Boma and Payam administrators and included the distribution of NFIs to 885 individuals (including vulnerable new arrivals and host community members), covering three Boma locations: Benjang, Majaak, and Daba,

In Jamjang, 10,906 households received solar-powered Sun Bell lamps, reaching 91 per cent of the initial target of 11,977 households. These lamps provide an eco-friendly lighting solution to improve security and living conditions in the camps. Feedback indicates they are especially valuable for students studying at night and women accessing sanitary facilities in Ajuong Thok and Pamir camps.

The construction of the Early Childhood Care Development (ECCD) block in Wedweil refugee settlement is 60 per cent complete, and the Youth and Women Center has reached 45 per cent. These facilities will provide vital spaces for early childhood development, youth engagement, and community activities, fostering social cohesion and supporting the well-being and development of refugees and host communities.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

A delegation from the World Bank, the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA), and the National Ministry of Water visited Wedweil Refugee Settlement, inspecting three water yards and one hand pump. They observed disparities in water systems due to varying partner support and funding. The delegation discussed ongoing WASH interventions, highlighting major challenges such as the increased influx of refugees, vandalism, insufficient funding, and the need for sustainable solutions.

UNHCR completed construction of 20 household latrines and 20 bathing shelters in Ajuong Thok and Pamir camps in Jamjang during May. These facilities were assigned primarily to new arrivals with specific needs as part of cholera preparedness and response efforts, aiming to reduce open defecation and mitigate disease spread.

LIBYA

Highlights

- The Director of the Libyan Medical Emergency Department [informed](#) on 22 May that eleven Sudanese refugees died of dehydration in Libya's southern desert after their vehicle broke down and they were stranded near Alkufra. Women and children were reportedly among the dead, and at least fifteen others traveling with the group were rescued. UNHCR Libya [issued](#) a statement on 25 May and highlighted the need to protect those forced to flee and help end the conflict in Sudan.
- Due to clashes that erupted in Tripoli on 12 May, UNHCR's registration office in Tripoli closed on 13 May, and staff worked remotely. UNHCR began a gradual return to its office on 25 May, with registration services resuming the following day.
- Despite access limitations, UNHCR maintained contact through online meetings with community mobilizers to discuss urgent needs and potential interventions. Community mobilizers have highlighted escalating protection risks driven by the security situation in Tripoli. Refugees and asylum-seekers face heightened fears, movement restrictions, and limited access to basic services, including healthcare.
- On 27 May, over 500 Sudanese individuals departed from Alkufra to the Triangle border area and were reportedly received by Sudanese military and security personnel. Subul Al-Salam (the military authority controlling the southern checkpoints in Alkufra) and the Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM) organized the returns in coordination with the Sudanese Community. DCIM reportedly arranged for additional trucks to carry returnees from the Triangle to Al-Khanagh in Dongola. The group had final destinations across Khartoum and other states. Libyan authorities have reportedly fully covered the transport cost, and returnees were provided with free transportation, food, and water throughout the journey.
- On 1 May, UNHCR welcomed representatives from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for migration-related programming to its office in Tripoli. Following a visit to the Registration Centre, discussions focused on enhancing protection efforts, improving registration processes, and identifying durable solutions. UNHCR also emphasized the situation and needs of Sudanese refugees in Libya.

- On 5 May, UNHCR and its national partner, LibAid, accompanied the DSRSG/RC/HC on a visit to the Al-Sella shelter in Ajdabiya (165 km southeast of Benghazi). Established by military authorities in late 2024, the shelter hosts approximately 130 Sudanese refugee families (around 700 individuals). UNHCR has assessed living conditions at the site and provided non-food items to support the essential needs of the refugees.

Population Movement and Registration

As of 31 May, there are 71,533 Sudanese refugees registered with UNHCR at its registration centre in Tripoli, representing 77 per cent of all registered refugees in Libya.

Protection

A focus group discussion was conducted with Sudanese women at the UNHCR main office in Tripoli to explore key protection concerns and obstacles to accessing basic services. Participants shared experiences of harassment, particularly in public transportation, workplace discrimination, unpaid labour, and abuse at the community level. Many women restrict their movements due to insecurity and fears of arrest. High rent costs and discrimination are causing housing challenges. Unaffordable fees, lack of documentation, bullying, and transportation difficulties hinder access to education. Economic hardship often forces children into labour. Health concerns arise from inadequate sanitation and limited healthcare access due to discrimination and high costs. Participants who had previously depended on humanitarian assistance and services are now facing challenges, as much of this support is no longer available following the suspension of numerous international organizations in mid-March.

Two community consultation sessions were held online with 20 Sudanese individuals, including mobilizers and caregivers, to counter misleading information, including that on social media. An alert was also [posted](#) on UNHCR Libya's Help Site.

Child protection

At UNHCR's Registration Centre, 229 Sudanese children were received at the Child-Friendly Space (CFS) where they participated in informal play activities. More than 4,000 Sudanese children have been received at the CFS since the start of the year.

Education

261 out-of-school refugee children, including Sudanese, were identified and referred to UNICEF. This referral is a coordinated effort under a Letter of Understanding between UNHCR and UNICEF to ensure children in need are considered for informal education, skills training, and inclusion in the national education system. Since January 2025, over 1,040 Sudanese refugee children have been identified and referred.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

UNHCR continues to assist Sudanese refugees across the country. On 8 May, through its national partner LibAid, UNHCR [reached](#) 366 Sudanese refugee families in Al-Marj with assistance including hygiene kits, kitchen sets, jerrycans, solar lamps, blankets, and mattresses. On 20 May, UNHCR and the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) provided essential relief items, including mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits, and kitchen sets to [support](#) 200 Sudanese refugee families in Alkufra.

On 26 May, UNHCR began a [distribution](#) to Sudanese refugees in Tajoura. The distribution targeted 827 refugee families, and items include blankets, mattresses, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, solar lamps, and jerrycans. On 29 May, UNHCR [distributed](#) core relief items to 29 Sudanese refugee families in Misrata, and on 31 May, it [assisted](#) 208 refugee families in Alkufra. In May, 4,300 Sudanese refugees received non-food items, bringing the total this year to 27,735.

Targeted assistance to vulnerable refugees continues. This month in Alkufra, four Sudanese refugees with disability [received](#) wheelchairs, bringing the total in the East to 26 individuals since the beginning of the year.

UGANDA

Highlights

- The security situation across the Adjumani Area of Responsibility (AoR) remained generally calm in May, though several isolated incidents were reported. These included youth-related disturbances, unrest during enforcement operations, and tensions at food distribution points in Adjumani. Kiryandongo reported petty crime and domestic challenges, while Moyo and Palabek recorded theft, armed robbery, and unexploded ordnance (UXO) incidents. Authorities and partners continue to address these issues through community engagement and targeted interventions.
- A media team from RTL German News visited Kiryandongo to document the impact of declining international aid on refugee services. The team observed health facilities and food distribution points, focusing on the consequences for new Sudanese arrivals and protracted refugee populations.
- On 22 May, UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) co-hosted a Protection Working Group meeting in Kiryandongo to review progress and challenges across protection sectors. Discussions highlighted increased criminality and concerns from GBV survivors requesting livelihood support in the context of ongoing food assistance reductions.
- A UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) delegation conducted a fact-finding mission to Adjumani and Palabek to assess the impact of reduced humanitarian funding on Uganda's refugee response. Key concerns raised included: rising malnutrition and food insecurity, increased protection risks, including GBV, poor infant feeding practices, gaps in critical supplies, staffing, and border screening capacity (e.g., at Elegu, due to language and personnel limitations). The mission also noted overcrowded health wards, poor childcare outcomes linked to food shortages, and an urgent need to improve food security, infrastructure, and human resources.
- The FCDO mission also conducted a three-day monitoring visit to review nutrition interventions supported by UNICEF, WFP, and UNHCR. The delegation assessed service delivery at reception centres and health facilities, met with refugees, and engaged with the OPM, humanitarian partners, and district officials to evaluate the scale-up of nutrition programming in light of rising malnutrition among new arrivals.

Population Movements, Registration, and Relocation

Since the onset of the Sudan conflict in April 2023, Uganda has registered a total of 77,026 Sudanese refugees. In May, a total of 2,995 Sudanese refugees were registered in Uganda, a 268 per cent increase compared to the 813 registered in April.

A total of 2,033 new arrivals from Sudan were received in the settlements in May, a 161 per cent increase compared to the 780 received the previous month.

Relocation

A total of 2,045 Sudanese individuals (989 households) were relocated from Kiryandongo, Nyumanzi, and Ocea reception centres to their respective plots in the settlements. This is an increase of 95 per cent from the 1,047 relocated in the last reporting period. While the relocation numbers have improved, overcrowding in reception centers remains severe, particularly in Kiryandongo and Ocea, which currently operate at 140 per cent and 213 per cent capacity, respectively. This is primarily due to an ongoing influx of new arrivals that outpaces relocation efforts. UNHCR is actively engaging partners to address operational constraints and relocation bottlenecks such as limited transport, land preparation delays, and staffing gaps, while also mitigating protection risks arising from overstay at reception centres.

Resettlement

A total of 9 individuals received resettlement and protection counselling across various locations. Resettlement Registration Form (RRF) interviews were conducted for three cases comprising 7 individuals, with 2 cases (5 individuals) submitted for country review and one case (3 individuals) referred for the same. Additionally, 2 cases were reviewed for possible resettlement to Canada, and 3 Canadian deferral responses were processed.

Significant coordination was undertaken to enable refugee participation in interviews and medical assessments. UNHCR and partners facilitated travel permits through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) for 8 individuals traveling to Kampala for UK medical assessments, and 5 individuals for Swedish

immigration interviews. In partnership with IOM, 6 applicants were prepared for their Swedish interviews, and one household of 5 from Palorinya was transported to Kampala for Canada resettlement interviews.

Protection

Access to Territory

Prima facie recognition remains in effect for Sudanese asylum seekers in Uganda. During the reporting period, 2,033 new arrivals were recorded, an increase of 161 per cent compared to April. Most came from South Darfur and Khartoum, fleeing ongoing violence and insecurity.

Reception Centres

As of 31 May, Sudanese nationals accounted for 62 per cent (3,527 of 5,699 individuals) of the population hosted in the Adjumani, Arua, and Kiryandongo reception centres. Throughout May, a total of 5,295 individuals, including 2,543 Sudanese, across 1,640 households were hosted at reception and collection points.

Legal and Physical Protection

A total of 45 new protection cases were reported across the Adjumani Area of Responsibility (AoR). UNHCR and partners provided legal counselling and advice to 28 individuals and successfully mediated two assault cases. Four cases of defilement were also followed up.

Outreach sessions on plea bargaining were held for 32 male inmates, including 5 forcibly displaced individuals, at Dyang and Kigumba prisons. The sessions, conducted by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Refugee Law Project (RLP), and the judiciary, aimed to facilitate informed participation in mobile court processes. A mobile court sitting was held at the Chief Magistrate's Court in Kiryandongo to address case backlogs and reduce remand times. A total of 78 individuals benefited, including 9 forcibly displaced people.

UNHCR and OPM co-chaired the Legal Working Group in Kiryandongo to assess progress and challenges. Key issues included the lack of confidential police interview spaces and the absence of a protection shelter, which resulted in the temporary detention of vulnerable individuals. The group committed to improving coordination on detention monitoring and case management.

In Kiryandongo, a male refugee juvenile was transferred from police custody to Masindi Remand Home to ensure compliance with Uganda's juvenile justice standards.

Community-Based Protection

In Kiryandongo, 3,968 newly arrived Sudanese refugees (1,041 households) received Inditex clothing upon arrival, helping meet basic dignity needs. Additionally, 94 Sudanese households received mobile phones via the GDT tool to facilitate access to Core Relief Items (CRIs) under the Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) modality.

Participatory Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) assessments and focus group discussions (FGDs) were held with 51 refugees and host community members to identify protection service barriers. Key issues raised included bribery by law enforcement, limited ambulance services, frequent medicine stockouts, high transport costs, and a lack of tailored support for male GBV survivors. Recommendations included establishing a one-stop center at Panyadoli Health Centre IV, improving emergency medical response, and enhancing community-police dialogue. A related FGD with 12 host community members in Adagwo Village highlighted gaps in complaint mechanisms, with suggestions including suggestion boxes and mobile-based platforms.

A feedback session with 33 youth trained in vocational skills showed that 60% were engaged in income-generating activities, while 40 per cent remained inactive. Feedback underscored the positive livelihood impact and the need for targeted follow-up.

Kiryandongo recorded 2,834 protection-related complaints through the FRRM system, with issues spanning health, child protection, education, food and cash assistance, legal aid, and shelter. An additional 1,321 complaints were received at protection desks, mostly concerning health, food, and shelter; the majority of complainants were women. A new protection desk in Bweyale Town registered 70 cases, extending access to underserved communities.

To enhance accountability, 40 refugee volunteers and para-social workers managing protection desks were trained to conduct community satisfaction surveys using the KoBo Toolbox. Ten partner agency staff were also trained in conducting key informant interviews and complaint mapping. Focal points have since been designated by each partner for feedback coordination. Volunteers were further oriented on messaging and case handling, while four cluster-level sensitization sessions clarified the role of the desks and strengthened referral pathways.

Support to People with Specific Needs (PSNs)

A total of 203 PSNs were supported in Kiryandongo. Assessments were conducted to determine vulnerabilities and link individuals with relevant services. In Moyo, joint assessments were carried out with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), community leaders, and Obongi District Health officials to identify needs for assistive devices. In Kiryandongo, 57 PSNs were issued temporary cards and provided with hot meals, temporary accommodation, and support in accessing registration and other essential services, reflecting continued high demand for tailored protection assistance amid new arrivals.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

MHPSS services were delivered across settlements with a strong focus on emotional stabilization, trauma recovery, and resilience-building. In Kiryandongo, 10 refugees received individual counselling and follow-up, while 20 women benefited from both individual and group psychotherapy sessions to manage emotional distress. Awareness sessions reached 350 refugees at the reception center, incorporating messaging on mental health and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), promoting trauma-informed care and emotional well-being.

In Adjumani, 4 individuals accessed one-on-one counselling, while in Palabek, 8 refugees received direct support. In Palorinya, 55 individuals participated in therapeutic sessions aimed at enhancing psychosocial well-being through positive coping strategies.

Evidence-based group and individual therapy continued to expand. In Adjumani and Lamwo, 22 women (11 in each location) received trauma-focused therapy targeting recovery and emotional resilience. In Kiryandongo, follow-ups with 7 refugees enrolled in interpersonal therapy reported improvements in sleep, mood, family interactions, and daily functioning. Among a separate group of 12 women in therapy, 4 cases were successfully closed due to recovery, while others were recommended for continued sessions to support long-term emotional processing and goal setting.

Demand-driven counselling also increased. In Kiryandongo, 19 self-referrals were received, addressing concerns related to insecurity, resettlement, education, food/CBI, land, and health. In Adjumani, a group counselling session in Ayilo supported 30 individuals (22 women, 8 men), focusing on emotional regulation, teamwork, and stress management, with an emphasis on strengthening group resilience. Across all locations, growing reliance on group sessions and self-referral pathways highlights increasing awareness and acceptance of mental health support among refugees.

In Kiryandongo, 110 children and adolescents participated in specialized MHPSS activities centered on emotional awareness, peer interaction, and early distress identification. Participants reported improved ability to express emotions and a greater willingness to seek help, indicating positive shifts in psychosocial outcomes among younger populations.

Peaceful Coexistence and Peacebuilding

Support to Peace Promoters: In Kiryandongo, 60 peace promoters received material support in two rounds to enhance their motivation and capacity to resolve community disputes, particularly around land. Despite this, peace promoters consistently reported operational constraints, especially during the rainy season, due to limited mobility and inadequate protective gear. They recommended increased logistical support, such as gumboots, raincoats, umbrellas, and additional shelter structures, to improve their ability to engage with communities in challenging weather conditions. Peace promoters and youth continue to play a central role in grassroots conflict resolution, but their effectiveness is undermined by these logistical limitations.

Youth Engagement in Peacebuilding: A peace dialogue session with 140 teenagers was conducted in Kiryandongo, addressing key drivers of youth conflict, including indiscipline, interpersonal violence, theft,

and false reporting. The session encouraged positive values such as respect, creativity, empathy, and discipline, promoting peaceful coexistence within families and among refugee and host communities. The activity reinforced the pivotal role of youth in fostering harmony and preventing conflict.

Engagement with Refugee- and Women-Led Organizations (RLOs/WLOs): UNHCR conducted capacity-building monitoring of three RLOs (AYAN, Liftup Community Initiative, and SSWBA) as part of preparations for UNHCR-funded peacebuilding activities planned for the third quarter of 2025. Two additional organizations, Global Peace and Prosperity Network and Ignite Her Media Network, were also profiled for future collaboration. This reflects a strategic shift toward locally driven peacebuilding, prioritizing sustainability, ownership, and community leadership. Supporting RLOs, women-led groups, and youth structures with both material inputs and sustained capacity-building remains essential for strengthening peaceful coexistence efforts.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response

In the Adjumani Area of Responsibility (AoR), 57 survivors of GBV were provided with timely, survivor-centered support services. The cases included incidents of emotional violence (24), physical violence (19), rape (7), sexual assault (1), and denial of resources (6), reported across Lamwo (14), Adjumani (19), Moyo (9), and Kiryandongo (15). Contributing factors cited by survivors included family neglect, lack of basic necessities, extramarital conflict, and child abandonment. All survivors received comprehensive case management, including psychosocial support, medical care, legal assistance, and safety planning, in line with GBV guiding principles of confidentiality, safety, respect, and non-discrimination.

Follow-up support was provided to 32 survivors across the AoR (in Lamwo, Adjumani, Moyo, and Kiryandongo) to monitor recovery and provide ongoing emotional support. Many survivors demonstrated improved emotional well-being and reported adopting positive coping strategies.

GBV prevention efforts reached 9,701 individuals through structured community sensitization using the SASA! Together methodology, door-to-door outreach, and mobile awareness sessions: Adjumani (4,339), Lamwo (955), Moyo (3,999), and Kiryandongo (407). Discussions covered forms of GBV and consequences, power dynamics, referral pathways, and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Participants raised concerns around stigma, cultural taboos, the impact of food insecurity, alcohol abuse, and intimate partner violence as barriers to seeking support and safety.

In Kiryandongo, 110 women and girls accessed services at two dedicated safe spaces, participating in life skills sessions (including tailoring, soap-making), peer support groups, and basic literacy and numeracy classes. Under UNICEF-funded programs, 30 women received additional training in bar soap production, contributing to empowerment and economic resilience.

As part of efforts to strengthen GBV response infrastructure, eight Focus Group Discussions were conducted in Kiryandongo with refugees and host community members to inform the development of a GBV one-stop center. Participants emphasized the importance of confidentiality, equitable access, and community involvement. Identified barriers included stigma, lack of awareness, and fear of retaliation, underscoring the continued need for accessible, survivor-friendly services and community engagement.

Child Protection

UNHCR and partners continued to provide essential support to vulnerable refugee children, particularly Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and other Children at Risk (CRs), through assessments, follow-ups, and community outreach. During the reporting period, a total of 65 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were conducted across five settlements (Palorinya, Adjumani, Lamwo, Moyo, and Kiryandongo) to identify the most suitable care and protection services for each child. For example, in Kiryandongo, four boys were supported after being identified as neglected or separated. They received psychosocial first aid and are now being linked to services including education, food, shelter, and vocational support.

To ensure continuity of care, follow-up visits were conducted for 668 children, including 464 in Adjumani, 43 in Lamwo, and 161 in Kiryandongo. These visits help ensure children's needs are being met and that protection risks are addressed. In Kiryandongo, 13 of the closed cases involved children whose whereabouts are currently unknown, highlighting ongoing challenges in tracing and monitoring.

Two case conferences were held in Kiryandongo to improve coordination between child protection partners. One focused on reviewing older cases dating back to 2019–2020, while the other addressed ongoing cases and coordinated referrals, including one case that was referred to gender-based violence (GBV) services for additional support.

To strengthen child protection services, UNHCR organized a refresher training for child protection staff in Kiryandongo, led by a UNHCR expert in child protection and family reunification. The training focused on improving the quality of BIAs and ensuring caseworkers are equipped to respond to the complex needs of children at risk.

Community engagement remains central to protection efforts. Awareness sessions were held with 334 community members in Kiryandongo to increase understanding of child rights, available services, referral pathways, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Participants raised concerns about growing child neglect and school dropouts, which they linked to reduced food assistance. Families are reportedly considering returning to their countries of origin due to economic hardship.

In a promising initiative, the Refugee-Led Organization (RLO) African Youth Action Network (AYAN) launched a three-year “Path-Entrepreneurship” project to support 300 children aged 0–5 years and their households with early childhood care and livelihood assistance. UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) encouraged AYAN to prioritize children with the greatest needs and align activities with child-friendly standards.

Preparations are also underway for the Day of the African Child (DAC) 2025 in Kiryandongo. A planning meeting with 13 stakeholders, including the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), War Child Holland (WIU), Finn Church Aid (FCA), Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), Uganda Red Cross Society (URS), AYAN, Kiryandongo Voices for Action (KVA), and Ignite Media Network (IMN), agreed on the theme: “Planning and Budgeting for Child Care and Protection: Progress since 2010.” Partners decided to celebrate DAC separately from World Refugee Day to ensure dedicated attention to children’s rights.

Shelter, Settlement, and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

In Adjumani, 201 households (679 individuals) at Nyumanzi Reception Centre received basic relief items such as blankets, sleeping mats, jerrycans, soap, sanitary pads, and underwear to support their dignity and wellbeing. In Kiryandongo, 80 out of 237 newly arrived households received mobile phones from UNHCR and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to improve access to assistance through cash-based support. However, critical items such as mosquito nets and wash basins remain out of stock, highlighting persistent gaps in essential supplies.

Education

Windle International Uganda (WIU) has shortlisted 101 refugee youth for the upcoming Konexio Africa digital skills training, aimed at increasing employability through computer literacy.

Five refugee students selected under the 2024/2025 Student Refugee Program (SRP) have been transported to Kampala to attend visa interviews at the IOM office, before departing to Canada for fully funded undergraduate studies. An additional 19 students are undergoing eligibility assessments for future SRP cycles.

Health and Nutrition

No suspected cholera cases were reported during the month, and cholera preventive treatment continues despite some medicine shortages. One confirmed case of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) was reported in Kiryandongo District involving a 31-year-old Ugandan man. Given the proximity to the settlement, enhanced disease surveillance has been recommended.

Mpox (monkeypox) cases continue to emerge in Kiryandongo and Palorinya, predominantly among new arrivals, with eight cases confirmed in Palorinya, prompting a technical review. Kiryandongo is also preparing for a catch-up measles vaccination campaign, as the outbreak there has entered its third year. Across the settlements, 38,995 outpatient consultations were recorded during the reporting period. Malaria remained the top illness, accounting for 11,063 cases (28 per cent) of all consultations, especially in Palabek, where it made up 64 per cent of total cases. Respiratory infections followed, with 6,562 cases (17 per cent), while diarrheal diseases were less prevalent (3–4 per cent).

There were 14 deaths recorded, including under-five and neonatal deaths, in Kiryandongo. A clinical mortality review is planned to identify systemic gaps and improve care.

Village Health Teams (VHTs) reached 10,781 children with health services across Palabek and Palorinya. Among those tested, 1,189 children were positive for malaria, with over 1,000 referred for further care at health facilities.

Maternal and reproductive health services continued uninterrupted, with 4,553 women attending antenatal care (ANC) and 953 facility-based deliveries conducted. HIV positivity rates among 3,961 tests remained low (0.5–1.5 per cent), and 19 individuals tested positive for tuberculosis (TB) and began treatment.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services reached between 144 and 221 clients weekly. However, incidents of suicide and attempted suicide were reported in Adjumani, Palorinya, and Moyo, often linked to family conflict or abandonment. Community-based follow-up for mental health remains a critical gap.

Nutrition screening reached 10,950 individuals during the reporting period, identifying 111 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 271 of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). The highest malnutrition rates were reported in Adjumani and Kiryandongo.

Water, Health, and Sanitation (WASH)

In Kiryandongo, a feasibility study was completed to extend the water pipeline from Siriba Treatment Plant to Ranch 1, supported by UNHCR and conducted using GIS and Epanet tools. To meet the needs of new arrivals, one new production well was drilled in Cluster F by Direct Aid. Infrastructure upgrades included the replacement of a 5.5 kW inverter at the Kiryandongo I system, restoring water to the reception centre, and the repair of a major leakage on the K2 distribution line. A 10-cubic-meter reservoir was also installed in Cluster J to ensure continued supply while the Kiryandongo 2 system is under rehabilitation.

Several repairs were carried out, including the replacement of a main generator AC circuit breaker and taps in Clusters G and L. Two hand pumps were restored in Cluster G and Panyadoli Hills Health Centre, and a vandalized water pipe in Cluster A was repaired. Chlorination was conducted at the Jubilee hand pump after contamination was detected.

The desludging of 10 communal latrine blocks was completed, including in staff accommodations and Clusters A and E, where six emergency latrines were also built for new Sudanese arrivals. A team of nine cleaners maintained hygiene standards at the reception centre.

Environmental and hygiene awareness sessions reached over 1,000 people, including 692 new arrivals, with messages on handwashing, menstrual hygiene, vector control, and food safety. In Kente village, 54 participants joined a hygiene awareness meeting on safe sanitation and water practices. A new waste management committee was established at the reception centre market to manage solid waste and coordinate with local authorities. Village Health Teams (VHTs) conducted sessions in Range 37 (MR Cluster) on safe water use and latrine construction.

A total of 3,812 cubic meters of clean water was produced during the month, using solar and generator-powered systems to serve both refugees and host communities.

Access to Energy and Natural Resources

In Kiryandongo, more than 102,900 tree seedlings were distributed to refugees and host community members. Of these, over 91,700 seedlings were planted on 87 hectares in host communities and 3 hectares in the settlement. An additional 1,348 seedlings were distributed to households in Cluster A for planting on 1.5 hectares. Recipients were trained on multi-purpose tree planting for fuelwood, fruit, shade, timber, and agroforestry. Early follow-up visits show promising survival rates of planted trees.

To reduce reliance on firewood and promote sustainability, 82 Lorena fuel-efficient stoves were constructed by two trained artisan groups in Kiryandongo under a cash-for-work scheme. These stoves reduce charcoal and wood consumption and contribute to improved livelihoods.

Environmental conservation and climate change sensitization sessions reached 165 individuals. Discussions focused on the benefits of tree planting, energy-efficient technologies, and waste management, linking environmental efforts to food security and resilience.

Challenges

Access to territory and shelter

Reception centres like Nyumanzi and Kiryandongo are severely overcrowded, currently operating at 101 per cent and 140 per cent occupancy, respectively. This has significantly increased public health risks and degraded WASH, health, and protection services for new arrivals. The situation is exacerbated by individuals returning to reception centres after relocation. Limited shelter capacity in Palorinya and Kiryandongo, compounded by low relocation rates and increasing arrivals at border points such as Elegu, has further strained response capacity. Inadequate infrastructure, such as insufficient registration and cooking shelters, and a lack of recreational materials for children, continues to undermine the quality of reception and protection services.

People with specific needs

PSNs face heightened risks due to physical limitations and a lack of financial and community support. Many live in inadequate shelters, further exposed by ongoing rains. The reduction in food assistance has eroded community-based coping mechanisms, increasing isolation. There are also concerns around misclassification of PSNs during recent food assistance exercises, which has led to the denial of vital support.

Legal and physical protection

Legal protection is constrained by delays in police investigations, prolonged detentions, and the absence of dedicated facilities for juveniles and vulnerable individuals. Confidentiality is compromised due to limited interview space, while corruption and the reluctance of medical personnel to testify in court further hinder access to justice.

Gender-based violence prevention and response

Survivors continue to face serious barriers to seeking support due to stigma, fear of retaliation, and lack of awareness. Intimate partner violence, child abandonment, and economic deprivation, exacerbated by food cuts, remain major drivers. Male survivors lack adequate support structures. Harmful cultural practices and substance abuse further contribute to the prevalence of GBV.

Child Protection

Incidents of child neglect, physical abuse, and early marriage are increasing, driven by economic hardship, negative parenting practices, and family separation. School dropouts are on the rise due to unaffordable fees and a lack of family support. Para-social workers report demotivation due to the absence of incentives. Risks intensify during school holidays, when poor supervision and behavioural issues are more common.

Security

While the overall number of incidents remains limited, the security situation is deteriorating. Clashes between police and communities have escalated into violence in some areas, including gunfire during anti-smuggling operations and attempted arson. Robbery, cattle theft, gang violence, and ethnic tensions—particularly in Kiryandongo and Palabek—are increasing. Cross-border movements and the discovery of unexploded ordnance (UXO) further complicate the situation.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Distress among refugees is growing, with cases of suicide attempts and completed suicides linked to family breakdowns and economic hardship. Response capacity is constrained by a shortage of essential psychotropic medications, including emergency antipsychotics.

Health System Strain

Health services are overstretched due to staff shortages, supply gaps, and limited infrastructure. Disease outbreaks, measles, Mpox, and CCHF, persist, while malnutrition and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are rising. Inpatient and neonatal units are under pressure, and transport challenges continue to delay referrals for complex conditions such as MDR-TB. Gaps in key medical equipment and late referrals are impacting the quality of care. The ongoing shortage of preventive services, compounded by reduced

trust and funding constraints, has led to avoidable infant deaths. Nutrition programmes remain overwhelmed by overcrowding and poor infant feeding practices among new arrivals.

WASH Gaps

Overstretched infrastructure is leading to frequent water system breakdowns, silting of boreholes, and increased vandalism. Open defecation is rising due to inadequate latrines and materials. Latrine desludging capacity is insufficient, and tensions at water points are emerging due to tribal divisions. Heavy rains have damaged sanitation infrastructure. Water supply in Kiryandongo dropped from 14 to 10 litres per person per day between January 2024 and May 2025. Hygiene item stockouts and high rates of diarrhoea signal growing risks.

Food Security and Assistance

Food insecurity has worsened due to ration cuts, delays in cash disbursements, and exclusion errors. Lack of clarity on mobile money payments and appeals processes has created confusion and tensions at distribution points, at times forcing staff withdrawals for security. Recategorization has left many without food support, pushing some to consider a return to South Sudan.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

Opportunities remain limited, particularly for PSNs and new arrivals who face barriers such as a lack of land access and inflated market prices. In some settlements, landlords prohibit income-generating activities like farming or brickmaking. Delayed funding and complex registration processes limit participation in livelihood programmes. Demand for sustainable, accessible livelihood options remains high.

Education

The loss of 141 teachers due to budget cuts and contract uncertainty has undermined education quality, contributing to increased dropouts. High pupil–teacher ratios (now 85:1, compared to the recommended 40:1), long travel distances to schools, child labour, and weak parental support are affecting attendance and learning outcomes. New arrivals face additional challenges accessing education.

NFIs, Shelter, and Infrastructure

Reception centres are facing stockouts of essential non-food items like mosquito nets and basins, while delays in CRI deliveries hinder effective support for relocated households. Inadequate shelter materials and infrastructure affect both health outcomes and children's well-being, particularly due to the lack of recreational amenities.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) – January - December 2025

The [Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025](#), launched on 17 February 2025, is an appeal for **USD 1.8 billion** for **111 partners** to provide essential aid and protection to a total of **5 million people** in seven countries by the end of 2025. This includes 4 million refugees, returnees, and others who have fled the ongoing conflict in Sudan and over 800,000 host community members. Reported funding towards the plan has reached USD 254.87 million, only **14%** of the requirements. Access UNHCR's Refugee Funding Tracker (RFT) [here](#).

Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) – January - December 2025

The 2025 [Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (HRP), published on 31 December 2024, requires **USD 4.2 billion** to assist **21 million people**. The HRP includes the response for refugees hosted by Sudan. As of 17 June, the total funding for the HRP reached USD 577.3 billion, covering **14%** of the requirements. Access OCHA's Financial Tracking Service here: [OCHA FTS](#).

UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – January - December 2025

UNHCR's financial requirement for 2025 for the [Sudan situation emergency response](#) – in Sudan and RRP countries – amounts to **USD 1.1 billion**. The appeal is funded at **28%** as of 31 May.

Resources

- NEW! [UNHCR Guidance Note on the International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Sudan](#)
- NEW! [Preparedness and initial response: displacement in South Sudan and neighbouring countries](#)
- NEW! [UNHCR warns of soaring needs amid Sudanese influx to Chad from Darfur](#)
- NEW! [UNHCR warns crisis reaching breaking point as Sudanese refugee numbers triple in Chad](#)
- NEW! [IOM DTM Sudan Focused Flash Alert](#)
- NEW! [Protection Hotspots in Sudan](#)
- NEW! [OCHA Sudan Humanitarian Dashboard](#)
- [Sudan Regional Crisis Development Action Platform](#)
- [2025 Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan](#)
- [Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan - At a Glance](#)
- [UNHCR Sudan Situation Appeal 2025](#)
- [Sudan-Emergency-Critical-Life-Saving-Needs](#)
- [UNHCR Mpox Appeal 2024](#)
- [Refugee Coordination Model](#)
- UNHCR's [Operational Data Portal \(ODP\) for the Sudan Situation](#) provides weekly updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan's neighbouring countries.
- [UNHCR and IOM Joint Dashboard](#) of arrivals to South Sudan, including data on returnee intentions, onward movements, and numbers and locations of returnees in and around Renk.
- [UNHCR Global Focus Sudan Operation page](#)
- [UNHCR Sudan Emergency website](#)
- UNHCR's HELP site for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Sudan provides information to individuals seeking information and support inside Sudan (in [English](#) and [Arabic](#))

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