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SUDAN SITUATION

9 – 22 March 2025



Sudanese refugees gather, seeking shelter from the sun under trees and constructing makeshift shelters, at a temporary site in Koulbous, Chad, at the border with Sudan, after fleeing the ongoing conflict in Sudan © UNHCR/Ala Kheir

Highlights

- The humanitarian situation in Sudan continued to deteriorate as the conflict rages on in Khartoum, Kordofan, Darfur and some parts of White Nile States. Recurring airstrikes, drones, and artillery shelling caused significant civilian casualties and damage to infrastructure.
- The security situation in South Sudan's Upper Nile region has significantly deteriorated, particularly in Nasir, Ulang and Longechuk counties, due to escalating clashes between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) and the White Army. Intense airstrikes since early March have resulted in numerous civilian casualties, widespread destruction of homes, and mass displacement. Nasir, once a key return corridor from Ethiopia with daily movements of 300–500 individuals, has seen a reversal in movement as returnees flee back to Ethiopia. Border monitoring in Maiwut now indicates an average of 363 people crossing into Ethiopia each day. The general security climate remains tense and unpredictable.

There are now 12.7 million forcibly displaced due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan since April 2023, including 8.6 million internally and 3.8 million in neighbouring countries. Sudan and neighbouring countries were already hosting large refugee populations before this new emergency and require additional support to provide protection and critical life-saving assistance, including for those who have been secondarily displaced within Sudan. Urgent needs include water, food, shelter, health, and core relief items. The current priority activities are the registration of new arrivals, relocation away from border areas, identification of especially vulnerable families and persons with specific needs, and putting mechanisms in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and ensure alternative care services for unaccompanied refugee children.

12.7M
Total Forcibly Displaced

8.6M
New IDPs in Sudan

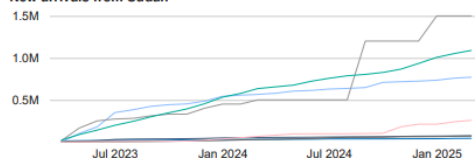
266.3K
Self-Relocated Refugees in Sudan

3.8M
Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Returnees

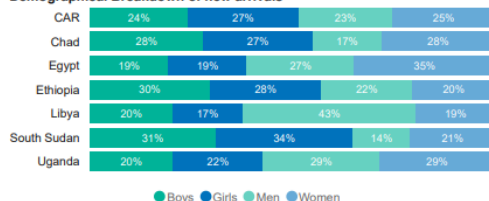
3.0M
Refugees and Asylum Seekers

761.9K
Refugee Returnees

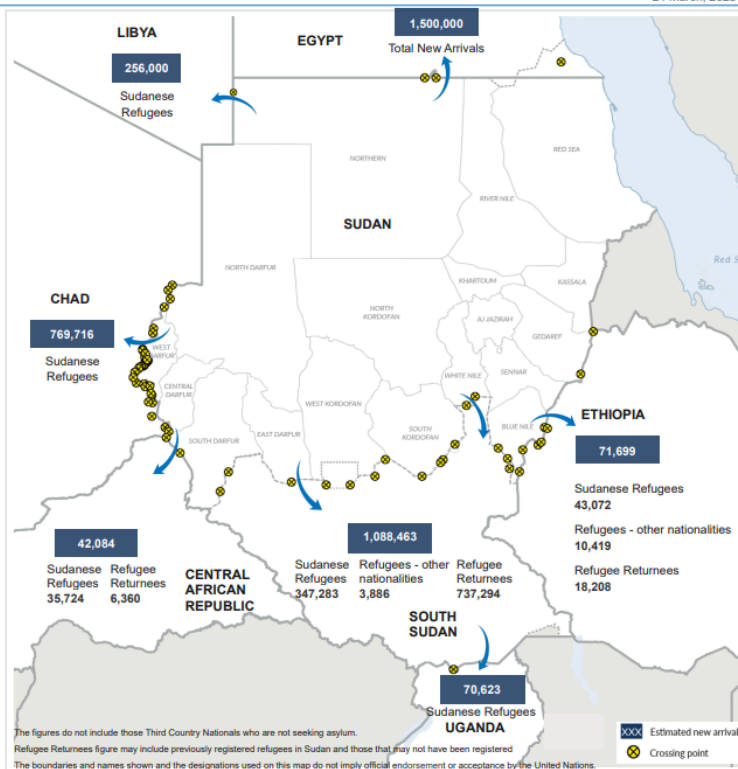
New arrivals from Sudan



Demographical Breakdown of new arrivals



Sources: UNHCR & Government | Contact: dimaehaghi@unhcr.org



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Situation and Operational Response

SUDAN

Highlights

- UNHCR is preparing contingency plans for possible influx of refugees and asylum-seekers from South Sudan as a result of escalating conflict there.
- The Global Protection Cluster Coordinator and National Cluster Coordinators visited Gedaref and Kassala States to enhance coordination efforts and assess how to better address key protection issues and humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs). In Gedaref State, the Global Coordinator evaluated a UNHCR project promoting resilience and peaceful co-existence. In Kassala State, the delegation engaged with displaced communities, observed activities, and discussed protection challenges with local authorities and partners.
- The Sudan Inter-Cluster Coordination Group endorsed the guidance note on engagement with the government on principled returns to area of origin or habitual residence and guidance note on humanitarian interventions in return areas. The Protection Cluster in consultation with Global Protection Cluster extensively consulted the Protection Cluster's Strategic Advisory Group and the members of Inter-Cluster Coordination Group at the national level to draft the guidance notes. Similarly, the Durable Solutions Working Group, co-led by UNHCR, UNDP and Danish Refugee Council, are currently drafting a returns position paper for the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The position paper, which will be aligned to the national durable solutions strategy (2023), is due to be presented to the HCT for endorsement in early April.

Population Movements and Registration

Population Movements

During the reporting period, UNHCR Gedaref conducted a border monitoring mission to Gallabat border crossing point to Ethiopia. Although Gallabat is officially closed for regular traveler movements, cross-border movements by the local population in Gallabat and Metema as well as Ethiopian refugees spontaneously returning to Ethiopia from the camps, were observed. The border officials reported that 60 Ethiopian former refugees received movement permits to return to the camps they were living in previously (32 to Um Rakuba, 22 to Tunaydbah and six to Um Gargour) following clearance by the security authorities. However, some Ethiopians seeking asylum in Sudan, including refugees who spontaneously returned to Ethiopia and seek to return to Sudan, especially families, are reportedly prevented from crossing the border to Sudan at official points, due to the absence of border authorities. As a result, people are using unofficial routes to enter Sudan. The Commission of Refugees (COR) stated that those wishing to cross into Ethiopia would be allowed.

Registration and verification

During the reporting period, UNHCR and COR received 120 Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees and asylum-seekers in Kassala and Gedaref States. Another 800 Eritrean, South Sudanese, and Ethiopian refugees and asylum-seekers were registered in Kassala, Khartoum, Red Sea, Blue Nile, Gedaref, and White Nile States in the last two weeks. Additionally, close to 400 refugees in Gedaref, Kassala, Khartoum and Red Sea states received identity documents such as photo slips and ID cards.

Returnees

Border monitoring teams have noted a rise in returns from Egypt with the main reasons cited as challenges in Egypt and the recent changes in control in Khartoum, Al Jazirah and Sennar States.

UNHCR has observed in Wadi Halfa that people who have vehicles or the capacity to arrange their own transport are self-organizing returns from Northern State to their places of origin in Khartoum, Al Jazirah and Sennar States. It is also reported that Northern State is receiving newly displaced people from North Darfur and Khartoum States where active conflicts persist.

In White Nile State, the authorities with the support of private individuals, facilitated the return of over 560 IDP households to Al Jazirah and Khartoum States during the reporting period. As of 22 March, over 1,100 households have benefitted from return facilitated by the authorities.

Protection

A group of 29 Eritreans living in an Ethiopian Club in Port Sudan peacefully protested outside the UNHCR office after being evicted by club management. UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had relocated the group, originally victims of human trafficking and in detention for nine months, from Khartoum to Port Sudan in October 2024. UNHCR is advocating with COR to register the group as refugees to ensure appropriate assistance can be provided to them.

In Gedaref State, UNHCR completed protection assessments and counselling for over 200 refugees living in Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah, Babikri, Um Gargour refugee camps and in urban locations, addressing family reunification, specific needs enrollment, bio-information correction and information related to resettlement.

During the reporting period, a fire incident in Um Rakuba refugee camp destroyed 15 shelters with two casualties. UNHCR's partners provided core relief items, shelter materials and psychosocial support to the affected families. The Camp Fire Prevention Committee also sensitized the community about fire incidents and shared preventative measures. Three refugee shelters were destroyed by fire in Zone 5 inside the Wad Sharife refugee camp in Kassala State without casualties.

In Northern State, UNHCR distributed wheelchairs and walking sticks to 300 individuals with disabilities from both the IDP and host communities.

During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted focus group discussions (FGD) with IDPs living in several gathering sites in Wadi Halfa, Northern State. During the discussions, the IDPs highlighted major challenges in accessing water, sanitation, food, education, health care, and inadequate conditions to

return to their places of origin. UNHCR has coordinated with its partners and the Humanitarian Aid Commission to address the challenges shared by the IDPs.

Legal Protection

During the reporting period, UNHCR's partner provided court representation and legal counselling to over 150 refugees and IDPs about laws and regulations linked to criminal cases, civil law, and documentation etc., as applicable to the displaced people in Kassala, White Nile, Blue Nile, Northern States.

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

In Kassala State, the Community-Based Protection Network (CBPN) with support from UNHCR and its partners held an awareness raising session about GBV, child marriage, substance abuse and psychosocial support in Al Karam gathering site in Kilo 26, Wad Sharifie, Shagarab, and Abouda for refugees reaching over 100 people.

Child Protection

UNHCR's partner identified three at-risk refugee children in White Nile State and provided appropriate services such as psychosocial support, nutrition, food, and shelter assistance, based on the best interest assessments.

Health and Nutrition

During the reporting period, over 28,500 outpatient consultations were conducted in primary health care facilities in the refugee camps in Gedaref and Kassala States. In Gedaref State, UNHCR's partner provided psychological first aid to 13 health care workers in Um Rakuba refugee camp.

Cholera Outbreak

In Blue Nile State, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 290 cholera cases in the State since November 2024. The cases have been identified among the displaced people from Sennar State and mainly reported at the Al Karama IDP gathering site and are attributed to poor Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities.

Education

The Gedaref State Ministry of Education announced the re-opening of schools on 8 April following the announcement of intermediate examination results last week. Close to 15,000 students passed the intermediate final exams that took place last month. The Um Gargour camp exam centre accommodated 184 students including refugees and host community from Karkura village and registered a pass rate of 95 per cent, one of the best performers in the State.

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

In Northern State, UNHCR distributed cash assistance to 1,053 vulnerable deportees from Egypt in Northern State. The beneficiaries received one-off cash assistance of USD180 in Sudanese pounds. So far, UNHCR has assisted 2,141 deportees in need of assistance.

In Kassala State, UNHCR facilitated with the CASHI mobile money service company to install and configure the CASHI application for refugees. The partnership with the mobile service company is part of exploring alternative solutions to recent Central Bank's new directives to use digital transfer for cash assistance. Initially, around 1,240 registered urban refugees will be supported to open mobile application and the funds will be transferred to the refugees' accounts.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

UNHCR's partner distributed core relief items (plastic sheets, blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen set, solar lamps, jerry cans and mosquito nets) and emergency shelter kits to close to 1,500 refugee households in Gedaref and Kassala States.

In White Nile State, UNHCR partner distributed clothes to 10,351 IDPs in 63 gathering sites in El Dowaim locality. The partner also pitched 100 family tents for IDPs in alternative relocation sites in Kosti, Rabak and Tendeltiy localities.

In Blue Nile State, UNHCR partner distributed non-food items (plastic sheets, mosquito nets and sleepings mats) to over 1,100 IDPs living in Tadamon locality.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Kassala State, UNHCR's partner distributed soap to close to 1,400 South Sudanese refugee households to prevent water borne and communicable diseases.

In Blue Nile State, UNHCR's partner has been providing drinking water via water trucking to refugees living in Camp 6. Lately, the arrival of over 2,000 IDPs at the vicinity of the refugee camps have also been benefitting from the water trucking which have increased the demand of water in the camps.

Site Management

UNHCR conducted an orientation session for implementing partners' staff and volunteers in Gedaref on site management assessment tools and provided practical guidance on data collection methodologies through the Kobo Collect for data gathering and analysis and basic knowledge on UNHCR's site management approach.

In White Nile State, over 60 schools used as IDP gathering sites have been prepared for possible school reopening. UNHCR is working with the State Ministry of Education for the coordinated relocation of the IDPs from the school gathering sites. During the reporting period, 461 families (comprising 2,711 individuals) were relocated from 14 schools in Kosti locality to the new site in Goz-Al Salam camp to evacuate schools to resume education.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Highlights

- In Vakaga, Bamingui Bangoran, Haute Kotto and Ouaka prefectures, which host the majority of Sudanese refugees in CAR, the security situation on the roads and in the sub-prefectures is characterized by human rights violations by armed men, who perpetrate torture, inhuman treatment, assault, battery, and extortion of property.
- In the Prefecture of Ouandja-Kotto, a joint military operation by the Armed Forces of the Central African Republic (FACA) and allied forces has reportedly been underway for a week against the positions of armed elements in the outskirts and in the town of Ngarba, 125 kilometres from Ndélé in Bamingui-Bangoran. Military combing operations are also underway against armed elements who hinder the free movement of people. Humanitarians suspended their movements during the joint military operation of the FACA and allied forces which aimed to facilitate the free movement and security of agents of the National Elections Authority (ANE) to continue the activities of registration on the electoral list.
- MINUSCA, through the Zambian Battalion, has distributed 50,000 litres of drinking water to Sudanese refugees in the Korsi neighborhood in response to the absence of fuel in a generator that powers the two pumps of the two boreholes at Korsi.

Population Movement and Registration

The conflict in Sudan continues to drive refugee arrivals into CAR. In the past two weeks, 2,391 new Sudanese refugees from 616 families arrived in Birao. Korsi is currently hosting 23,757 Sudanese refugees from 9,524 families, 56 percent being women and girls.

In the past two weeks, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), conducted biometric registration for 1,262 individuals from 440 families in Korsi. Among those registered, 110 individuals with specific needs were identified, which include unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), women at risk, older individuals, people with disabilities, individuals with serious medical conditions, and single parents.

Protection

UNHCR's partner, Le Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement (CIAUD), continued to record protection incidents in the Vakaga region including robbery, physical assault, and extortion,

mainly attributed to non-state armed groups. In addition, individual protection interviews with more than 22 individuals continued in Korsi, particularly regarding documentation, food and non-food items.

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

Survivors of GBV in Korsi, Birao came forward this week, reporting incidents of physical assault, forced marriage, and denial of resources. All survivors received psychosocial support at the Korsi safe space.

To provide more effective humanitarian assistance to refugees, UNHCR's partner, CIAUD, conducted an awareness-raising session on sexual abuse and exploitation in the Korsi safe space. The aim of this initiative was to inform participants about their rights, inappropriate behaviour, reporting mechanisms and prevention measures with 71 people in total (26 women, 19 men, 12 girls and 14 boys). Follow-up will be carried out to measure the impact of this activity and reinforce protection actions in the community.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

Due to critically limited funding, no new emergency shelters were constructed in the past two weeks, despite the continuation of daily refugee arrivals in Birao. As a result, there is a severe shortage of shelter for newly arrived refugees. Some continue to temporarily stay in the Korsi safe space and the Information and Feedback Centre, the former registration centre, while others sleep in the open.

During the reporting period, 408 refugee families comprising 1,246 individuals received non-food items (NFIs) including mattresses, blankets, jerrycans, buckets, cooking utensils, and mosquito nets from UNHCR in Korsi, Birao.

A total of 274 family composition tickets were generated and given to the heads of households to benefit from assistance in shelters and NFI kits.

Food Security

During the week of 17 to 23 March, the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with UNHCR and CNR, distributed food to 1,265 refugee families in Korsi, Birao.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

The absence of fuel in a generator that powers the two pumps of the two boreholes at Korsi (Birao), prevented the distribution of water during the week of the 17th. In response, MINUSCA, through the Zambian Battalion, distributed 50,000 litres of drinking water to Sudanese refugees in the Korsi neighborhood. The daily water supply dropped from 11 litres per person per day, to 10.5 litres last week. This remains below the Sphere standard of 15 litres per person per day.

In terms of sanitation, the number of latrines in Korsi has remained at 393 since early February (261 emergency and 132 semi-durable ones) due to a funding freeze that stopped new latrine construction by UNICEF's partner, Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH). With the growing refugee population in Korsi and no new latrines, the latrine-to-person ratio has further increased from 53 to 56, exceeding the Sphere emergency standard of 50 people per latrine. More than 10,000 refugees are in urgent need of 710 latrines. Hygiene and sanitation teams from UNHCR's partner, NOURRIR, continue to conduct awareness campaigns within the refugee community. They are engaging with households through focus groups, block-by-block activities, and door-to-door outreach, reaching 5,672 households in Korsi in the past two weeks. These campaigns cover various topics, including water point management, the maintenance of sanitary facilities, and hygiene practices within households.

Over the past two weeks, thirty handwashing buckets with taps have been installed at the registration center, health centre, and across various blocks in Korsi to enhance hygiene conditions.

Health and Nutrition

From 10 to 15 March, medical teams from the Centre de Support en Santé Internationale (CSSI) and International Medical Corps (IMC), under the coordination of the Vakaga Health District, conducted 805 medical consultations in Korsi. Of these, 85 consultations (11 per cent) were for the host population, while 720 consultations (89 per cent) were for refugees, including 126 new arrivals (16 per cent). Among the patients, 212 children aged 59 months and below (26 per cent) received treatment. So far in 2025, 10,099 consultations have been conducted, with 11 per cent provided to host communities.

The most diagnosed illnesses were acute respiratory infections, with 279 cases (35 per cent), followed by malaria with 168 cases (21 per cent), and intestinal parasitic diseases with 75 cases (6 per cent). Most patients received outpatient treatment in the Korsi neighborhood, with 25 patients referred to the Birao District Hospital. The cumulative total for 2025 is 201 referrals.

Between 17 and 22 March 2025, 16 forcibly displaced women received prenatal consultations, bringing the total to 423 for 2025. Additionally, two postnatal consultations were conducted, raising the total to 22. Meanwhile, 10 women received gynecological consultations, bringing the cumulative total to 516 for 2025. Seven women accessed family planning services, bringing the total to 104 for the year.

During the same period, two babies were delivered, bringing the total numbers in 2025 to 32 deliveries and 40 newborns (20 girls and 20 boys). There were no cases of cesarean sections or twin births.

During the week of 17 to 22 March, 212 children aged six to 59 months were screened for malnutrition during medical consultations, with 12 cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and nine cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). The cumulative total for 2025 is 114 cases of MAM and 22 cases of SAM, out of 2,982 children screened during consultations, with a mass screening campaign planned for later in the year.

Eight pregnant women received tetanus vaccines, and ten children were vaccinated with multi- antigen vaccines. So far, in 2025, 117 children have been vaccinated.

Four new cases related to mental health were recorded, including three refugees and one member of the host community. The cumulative total for 2025 stands at 82 cases comprising (Refugees: 25 men and 28 women) and (Host Community Members: 15 women and 13 men).

CHAD

Highlights

- From 10 to 14 March 2025, UNHCR received a mission from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guereda. The mission consisted of four people, three of whom were from Sudan. The mission worked at the refugee sites in Kounoungou, Milé, and Koursigué, as well as with the Guéréda High Court, to gain insight into the human rights situation.
- Following the inauguration of the digital learning centre in Abeche, UNHCR has continued providing distant learning opportunities for refugees and refugee-hosting communities in the Iridimi refugee site. The internet connections have been set up, and the computers and other equipment will be installed shortly. The initiative was met with great enthusiasm by the refugees and representatives from host communities in the surrounding villages as an opportunity to provide access to higher education through the centre.

Population Movements and Registration

New arrivals continued crossing the border into Chad as new fighting was reported in North Darfur. From 17 to 23 March, 2,351 Sudanese refugees arrived in Chad, 78 per cent in the province of Wadi Fira. This brings the total number of arrivals since the beginning of 2025 to 46,177, with an overall upward trend.

In Koursigué, individual biometric registration is ongoing. During the reporting period, 3,271 refugees (763 households) were registered, bringing the total number of refugees registered to 13,511 (3,348 households), achieving 90 per cent of the planned target. At the Abougoudam refugee site, 444 individuals (162 households) were registered.

Relocation

During the period under review, 1,717 individuals (672 households) were relocated from border areas to the Kerfi, Zabout (Silla Province), Dougui and Abougoudam (Ouaddaï Province) and Koursigué (Wadi-Fira Province) refugee sites.

Protection

Legal protection

From 19 to 21 March, UNHCR conducted a training on protection monitoring, mixed movements, and secondary movements for community relays, Community Refugee Taskforce (CRT) monitors, and National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees (CNARR) protection assistants. The training covered international protection in mixed and secondary movement contexts, route-based approaches, fraud and corruption, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), the code of conduct, and referral pathways. A total of 35 participants attended.

Child protection

A capacity-building session for transitional foster families was organized on 13 March at the Iridimi refugee site. Focusing on the theme "the foundations of child protection and positive parenting", this training session reminded transitional foster families of legal tools and the community approach to child protection and to strengthen their skills in compassionate education. This training brought together 32 participants from the Iridimi, Touloum and Amnabak sites, including 19 women.

A total of 118 at-risk children were identified with various vulnerabilities during the reporting period. Assessments and Determination of Best Interests were conducted for 28 of them, resulting in some being placed in foster care and others reunited with their families.

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

From 11 to 13 March, the UNHCR office in Iriba organized a capacity-building workshop on GBV case management, the basic concepts of PSEA, mental Health, and psychosocial support in the fight against GBV for partner staff. The workshop was attended by 48 people.

Coordination

UNHCR's Principal Situation Coordinator conducted a mission on 11 March at the UNHCR Guereda Field Office in Eastern Chad. He met with the Prefect for courtesy calls and advocated allocating additional space to accommodate refugees waiting at the border. The mission also visited the Koursigué refugee site and the new Arna.

Health and Nutrition

Since the beginning of the year, 84,216 medical consultations have been conducted, including 9,466 new consultations in the last week. The most common diseases are acute respiratory infections, malaria, watery diarrhoea, and malnutrition.

A total of 5,052 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 1,810 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have been treated. 19,631 children were screened last week, including 562 diagnosed with MAM and 127 with SAM.

A total of 1,650 births have been assisted by qualified personnel since the beginning of the year, including 176 in the last week. 431 cases have been received for consultation and treated, including 41 new cases last week. 497 patients have been referred since the beginning of the year, including 57 last week. A total of 4,100 children aged 6–23 months and 470 pregnant or breastfeeding women received Super cereal Plus to prevent acute malnutrition.

On March 19, 2025, 239 households comprising 691 refugees received UNHCR NFIs. The distribution was temporarily suspended to coordinate with UNICEF WASH kits being distributed by SECADEV.

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

UNHCR's partner, World Vision, provided cash assistance to 100 GBV survivors at the Milé refugee site, distributing Central African CFA Franc (XAF) 42,000 (approximately USD 69.90) per beneficiary for a total of XAF 4,200,000 (approximately USD 6,959.40).

WFP and partners distributed food to 616 (209 households) newly relocated Sudanese new refugees in Zabout and Dougui refugee sites. In Touloum, 2,987 households comprising 10,633 individuals benefitted from WFP cash distributions, each receiving 8,000 XAF (approximately USD 13.26).

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

The Croix Rouge du Tchad (CRT) completed the construction of 1,569 shelters at the Koursigué II site, all allocated to households from Tiné. In Guéréda, 146 shelters were distributed to 147 new Sudanese arrivals.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

A new solar-powered borehole with a capacity of 4.3 cubic metres per hour was inaugurated in Abougoudam, providing water to over 400 Sudanese refugees and members of the host community. This project, funded by UNHCR and implemented by its partner Leaders et Missions d'Impact (LMI), aims to address local water needs.

UNHCR's partner, Société Humanitaire d'Assainissement, de Karité et d'Actions Locales (SHAKAL) completed 75 latrines, built 319 pits, and made 286 slabs for 850 planned latrines. WASH kits were distributed to 1,300 households. UNHCR's partner, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) also commissioned the F3 borehole in Aboutengué.

EGYPT

Highlights

- Some 50,000 Sudanese individuals have successfully scheduled new registration appointments online with UNHCR Egypt using the 'Digital Gateway' since its launch in August 2024. This innovative platform allows asylum-seekers to request appointments online, providing a much-needed alternative to in-person visits and calls to the overburdened Infoline. It has eased congestion at UNHCR reception centres, leaving room for other protection concerns to be addressed. Furthermore, the Digital Gateway has improved access to registration, enhanced operational efficiency, and offered valuable insights for future digital transformation efforts in Egypt and beyond. The tool has significantly reduced the need for long-distance travel to UNHCR offices for those seeking appointments, making it easier for asylum-seekers to access registration services. Asylum-seekers can now save on transportation costs, allowing them to use this money for other urgent needs. The overall feedback so far has been largely positive, with 89 per cent of users finding the portal "clear and understandable", and 83 per cent describing it as "easy to use".
- On 19 March, UNHCR organized a Ramadan gathering in Alexandria, bringing together 160 participants, including 90 Sudanese and Syrian refugees. The event, co-led by Rotary Egypt and Aamal for Development Foundation, featured an iftar, the traditional meal for breaking the fast in Ramadan. Throughout the evening, Sudanese, Syrian, and Egyptian artists performed, enriching the gathering with diverse cultural expressions. The event aimed to strengthen social cohesion and provide refugees forced to spend Ramadan away from home with a sense of community and belonging.
- Last week, UNHCR Egypt continued its donor engagement efforts. On 16 March, a Hungarian delegation led by the Ambassador to Egypt visited UNHCR's Reception Centre in Greater Cairo. During a focus group discussion (FGD), they were briefed on the critical challenges faced by newly arrived asylum seekers from Sudan in Egypt. On 20 March, a multi-donor delegation comprising EU-ECHO, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) visited UNHCR's Reception Centre in Greater Cairo. The delegation learned about the refugee registration process and UNHCR's protection response and participated in a FGD with five refugee women leaders.
- On 20 March, Egyptian Ferrari driver, Mohamed Hamdy, filmed a fundraising video at UNHCR's Reception Centre in Greater Cairo as part of UNHCR's Zakat campaign.
- On 22 March, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, Alfonso Herrera, met with eight refugee community leaders from Sudan, South Sudan, and Syria during a one-day visit to Cairo. Refugees shared the main challenges they face in Egypt and highlighted the need for support to fund humanitarian programmes in the country.

Population Movements and Registration

As of 23 March 2025, UNHCR Egypt provided registration appointments to 906,200 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, UNHCR has now registered 611,700

individuals for assistance and protection (67.5 per cent). Adding to the pre-April 2023 population, there is now a total registered of 938,500 refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt. Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (96 per cent), followed by Eritrean (1.7 per cent), and South Sudanese (1.6 per cent). Over half (55 per cent) are women and 42 per cent are children.

Protection

Community-based protection

Over the past two weeks, 10,900 refugees and asylum-seekers, including new arrivals from Sudan, received information on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints from outreach community workers at UNHCR's Reception Centre in 6th of October City, Greater Cairo. In addition, over the same period, UNHCR's partner Terre des Hommes (TdH) provided on-the-spot basic psychosocial support to 3,800 individuals, out of whom 90 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 260 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance. Additionally, UNHCR provided CBP case management for 190 refugees, including 84 who received in-person counseling, while the rest were assisted through remote sessions.

UNHCR organized two community meetings in Greater Cairo on 19 and 12 March, bringing together 74 refugees, including community leaders, from Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen, and Syria. The discussion focused on key concerns such as cash assistance, resettlement, family reunification, legal protection, and the current funding situation. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions, share their concerns, and engage directly with relevant UNHCR staff.

On 18 March, UNHCR organized a joint reception at TDH's Multi-Purpose Community Center in Giza. During the event, UNHCR and partner staff provided counseling and support to 50 refugees and asylum-seekers, including individuals from Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Eritrea, and Ethiopia.

Legal and physical protection

Last week, 530 individuals received legal assistance and counselling through UNHCR and partners, concerning early and late birth registration, filing legal reports, divorce, custody, and legal representation. Additionally, UNHCR provided LPP case management for 59 refugees, including 44 Sudanese.

On 13 March, UNHCR and its partners held a legal clinic in Cairo, providing direct legal support to 58 refugees and asylum-seekers.

Infoline

In the past two weeks, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline responded to 21,300 inquiries. Additionally, an average of some 430 individuals per day fleeing the conflict in Sudan secured registration appointments through the Infoline. Since the crisis began, a total of 608,100 people have successfully scheduled appointments using this system.

Education

During the reporting weeks, 400 refugee DAFI scholars participated in mentorship interviews to review their academic progress, address any challenges, and develop personalized support plans as needed. Additionally, 41 secondary school students attended an online awareness session on the application process for higher education institutions in Egypt, including the eligibility criteria and deadlines for the DAFI Tertiary Scholarship Programme.

Last week, five parents of refugee students with disabilities participated in UNHCR-sponsored mentorship sessions in Cairo. These sessions are designed to help parents better understand their children's specific needs and provide personalized guidance to support their education while addressing any challenges they may face. Additionally, UNHCR partners continued to offer education advising sessions to parents of refugee children, assisting them in enrolling their children in suitable educational programs that meet their individual needs.

Health and Nutrition

In Alexandria, refugee community leaders raised concerns about the limited access to medical services. In response to this situation, several community-led initiatives, including 'Amal Al-Laje'een,' 'Rouh,' and 'Al-Majd Academy,' have stepped in to provide temporary healthcare support for refugees in Alexandria.

These initiatives have organized medical convoys, facilitated surgeries—either free of charge or at minimal cost—through Egyptian volunteer doctors, and secured financial aid for essential medications. Additionally, they have helped connect patients with pharmacy owners and charitable donors to reduce financial burdens. Medical convoys, supported by the Egyptian Red Crescent, have also played a crucial role in delivering essential healthcare services.

Cash Assistance

Between 9 and 22 March, UNHCR partner Mindset conducted vulnerability assessments for 315 Sudanese individuals in Cairo. Since the Sudan crisis began in April 2023, UNHCR has assessed the vulnerability of 181,100 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers, including both new arrivals and those already in Egypt before the crisis. In March 2025, some 80,800 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 48,300 Sudanese, were supported with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA). Due to funding shortages, more than 106,000 Sudanese refugees with high poverty levels remained on the MPCA waiting list. This means they met the eligibility criteria for cash assistance as they struggle to survive but remain unassisted due to the scarcity of funds.

Between 10 and 18 March 2025, the Joint Hub conducted a mission to support UNHCR and WFP in Egypt in finalizing a joint targeting strategy and eligibility criteria for relevant programs. Since April 2023, the Joint Hub had been working with both agencies to improve data collection, targeting strategies, accountability mechanisms, long-term planning, and best practice documentation. A household survey (September – December 2024) and qualitative Focus Group Discussions (February 2025) had provided key insights into needs, vulnerabilities, and access to services. During the mission, both agencies discussed and agreed on a targeting approach, considering the latest data analysis. Additionally, ongoing discussions since December 2024 on appeals and communication mechanisms with affected people were further advanced. The mission successfully reviewed data findings, finalized the targeting methodology, developed appeals and communication strategies, and presented key recommendations to senior management. The final Egypt Vulnerability Assessment for Refugees (EVAR) report is expected to be published in July 2025.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- UNHCR continues to have unrestricted access to refugee sites in the Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz regions, despite the volatile security situation, particularly in the Amhara region.
- In Benishangul Gumuz region, the security situation in Kurmuk Transit Centre, Ura, and Sherkole refugee sites remains calm and stable.
- UNHCR in coordination with the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) hosted a European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) delegation mission to Benishangul Gumuz Region from 17-19 March. The objective of the mission was to visit and monitor ECHO-funded health and nutrition programs implemented by partner Medical Teams International (MTI) and GOAL. The delegation visited Kurmuk Transit Centre, Tsore refugee Camp and Ura refugee settlement. In addition, the delegates also engaged with RRS, UNHCR, and partners as well as refugee and host community representatives.

Population Movement and Registration

In the Benishangul Gumuz region, 54 households comprising 160 individuals underwent household-level registration at Kurmuk transit centre. Since 15 April 2023, a total of 30,763 individuals have been registered at the household level. As of 21 March, 3,909 individuals from 1,095 households successfully underwent biometric Level 3 (L3) registration and verification exercise at Ura refugee site. Of these, 2,907 individuals are enrolled in the National ID Programme (NIDP).

In the Amhara region, L3 registration began on 14 January 2025 at Aftit settlement. As a result, a total of 20 individuals from 10 households were registered. The process was suspended due to technical issues with the server and the exercise will resume in the coming weeks upon restoration of internet connection in the location.

Relocation

In Benishangul Gumuz region, UNHCR, in coordination with RRS and IOM, relocated a total of 177 individuals from 54 households from Kurmuk transit centre to Ura refugee site. This brings the total refugees relocated to Ura to 11,963 individuals from 4,336 households.

Protection

In Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz region, protection activities, including counselling, feedback and response, and referrals were carried out by UNHCR and its partners.

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

In the Amhara region, DICAC provided GBV services in Aftit. In addition, an awareness-raising campaign, through home-visits, covered available services for GBV survivors, the importance of reporting within 72 hours, and MHPSS services.

In Benishangul Gumuz region, UNHCR's partner, International Rescue Committee (IRC) provided GBV services in Ura refugee site. IRC conducted awareness-raising activities for 388 refugee women and girls using different approaches to create safe and better places at Ura. The main topics covered included GBV basic concepts, its types, and consequences. In addition, the Women and Girls' Safe Space (WGSS) activity continued, through IRC, and a total of 165 individuals participated in different skill and awareness activities.

Child protection

In Aftit, Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) and Plan International Ethiopia (PIE) provided Child Protection services. A thorough Best Interest Assessment (BIA) was successfully completed for 99 UASC, ensuring the needs and well-being of the child were prioritized. The Child-Friendly Space (CFS) organized a range of indoor activities to foster social interaction, creativity, and physical well-being, engaging an average of 500 children each day.

In Ura refugee site, PIE continued the identification, verification, and registration of UASC and other vulnerable children (OVC). BIA and registration of 62 separated children were conducted in Ura refugee settlement. A total of 570 children accessed the CFS during the week.

Health and Nutrition

In Aftit settlement, MTI provided Outpatient Department (OPD) consultations. MTI conducted OPD consultations for 1,171 refugees and host community members in Aftit. Overall, the prevalent diseases include upper respiratory tract infections, pneumonia, acute watery diarrhoea, urinary tract infections, malaria, acute febrile illness, and intestinal worms/infections.

Nutrition screening was also conducted for 654 children and 192 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in Aftit, with nine cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) identified amongst children and 22 MAM amongst PLW. All identified cases were included for Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP). In the Benishangul Gumuz region, UNHCR partner MTI provided ODP consultation for 1,022 refugees and host community members at Akuda health post in Ura. The prevalent diseases include Malaria, upper respiratory tract infection, watery diarrhoea, and lower respiratory tract infection.

Nutrition screening was conducted by partner GOAL for 611 children under the age of 5 and 103 PLW. Of these, 42 children were identified with MAM and nine with SAM. All cases were admitted to the targeted supplementary feeding program.

Education

In Aftit, the education process is ongoing for the second semester for 899 primary school refugee students and 535 host community children after one week semester break. A total of 263 refugee students have also resumed the second semester education at the Gende Wuha/Metema host community secondary school.

In Ura, the education process is ongoing for the second semester at the Akuda-Tumet primary school through PIE for 2,327 refugees and host community students. Among these, 1,352 (734 boys and 618 girls) are refugee students. Early Childhood Care and Development is being provided for children aged between 4-6 years at the CFS at Ura refugee site.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In the Amhara region, PIE provided 69,643 liters of chlorinated water per day for refugees in Aftit Settlement, and, in the two weeks, 20,000 litres for the Aftit primary school. An average of 9.8.74 litres per person per day (l/p/d) was delivered for refugees in Aftit. The amount provided is below the SPHERE and UNHCR emergency standard of 15 litres per person per day.

In Benishangul Gumuz region, maintaining a distribution of 17 l/p/d of water was distributed to refugees in Ura, which meets the emergency standard. Amhara, PIE supplied 97,143 litres of chlorinated water per day to refugees in Aftit settlement, along with an additional 30,000 litres for Aftit primary school, 10,000 liters for Metema transit centre serving both refugees and host community members. The average water supply in Aftit was 13.74 l/p/d, below the UNHCR emergency standard of 15 l/p/d.

In Benishangul-Gumuz, water distribution for refugees in Ura remained at 22 l/p/d, meeting the emergency standard.

LIBYA

Highlights

- In Tripoli, 25 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with 228 refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, ensuring gender balance. In Zawia, 12 FGDs engaged 98 refugees, primarily from Sudan and Syria, while in Misrata, six sessions included 69 refugees from the same nationalities. In total, 395 refugees participated. UNHCR and its partners are finalizing the assessment report, which will outline key findings and recommendations.
- In the East of the country, UNHCR's partner, ACTED conducted 12 FGDs in Benghazi (seven with Sudanese refugees and five with host community members) to identify Small-Scale Community Projects (QIPs) for 2025 that will benefit both groups.
- Distribution of UNHCR Core Relief Items (CRIs) began on 23 March in Benghazi, including blankets, mattresses, solar lamps, kitchen sets, plastic sheets, jerry cans, hygiene kits, and baby kits. The distribution will continue for two weeks, targeting 5,000 refugees and 200 host community households.
- All UNHCR international funded non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have suspended activities until after Eid to prevent putting their staff at risk as well as refugees and asylum-seekers.
- As of 1 March 2025, a total of 64,198 Sudanese refugees had been registered with UNHCR at its registration centre in Tripoli, representing 75 per cent of the total refugees registered.

Population Movement and Registration

The registration process by authorities in Alkufra remains halted with no clear timeline for resolution. A temporary modality remains in place. However, it causes a financial strain on refugees as it costs LYD 160 (approximately USD 33.25), unlike the suspended process which was free of charge.

The Department for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM) has reportedly increased patrols near the border with Sudan. Newly arrived Sudanese refugees have reported an increase in the cost of transportation by smugglers from the Triangle Area to Alkufra. The cost increased from around LYD 460 (approximately USD 95.59) to LYD 520 (approximately USD 108.06) per individual possibly due to the heightened patrols by the DCIM.

Protection

The UNHCR Libya field team in Ajdabiya is coordinating with the Sudanese community and local partner, LibAid, to assess the needs of Sudanese refugees in Brega, Zweisatien, and Ben Jawad. Seventeen sites, including schools, hospitals, and clinics serving Sudanese refugees in eastern cities, have been identified for the possible installation of mobile latrines.

UNHCR is monitoring plans for the evacuation of refugees from farms in Alkufra to a new collective shelter and has conducted assessments at Al Azoumi and Emmy farms.

Four home visits were conducted in Benghazi to Sudanese families as part of outreach efforts. The four families have arrived as a result of the Sudan conflict. Similar to many other cases, paying rent was raised as the main challenge they are facing.

WASH, Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

UNHCR continues to provide assistance to Sudanese refugees across the country. Distribution of UNHCR Core Relief Items (CRIs) began on 23 March in Benghazi, including blankets, mattresses, solar lamps, kitchen sets, plastic sheets, jerry cans, hygiene kits, and baby kits. The distribution will continue for two weeks, targeting 5,000 refugees and 200 host community households.

UNHCR completed assessments at Al Abaj and Kreek farms, which are being used as collective shelters for Sudanese refugees. Discussions with the Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM) in Alkufra are ongoing regarding CRI distributions.

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- The security situation in South Sudan's Upper Nile region has significantly deteriorated, particularly in Nasir, Ulang and Longechuk counties, due to escalating clashes between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) and the White Army. Intense airstrikes since early March have resulted in numerous civilian casualties, widespread destruction of homes, and mass displacement. Nasir, once a key return corridor from Ethiopia with daily movements of 300–500 individuals, has seen a reversal in movement as returnees flee back to Ethiopia. Border monitoring in Maiwut now indicates an average of 363 people crossing into Ethiopia each day. The general security climate remains tense and unpredictable.
- The conflict has also disrupted humanitarian access, particularly in Nasir, where bombardments have forced aid workers to flee. Moreover, the cholera outbreak continues in Nasir and Balia counties. Nasir has recorded 21 cases with unverified deaths, while Balia has reported 297 cases and eight confirmed deaths. Women and children remain disproportionately affected by the conflict and displacement, while humanitarian response is increasingly hampered by insecurity and access constraints.
- In Renk, the security situation has stabilized, with uninterrupted operations at the Wunthou/Joda Border Reception centre. However, tension persists due to the ongoing conflict between SAF and RSF, with rumors of RSF planning to advance toward the White Nile region contributing to the uncertainty.

Population Movement and Registration

Since the onset of the Sudan conflict, a total of 1,109,977 individuals had arrived in South Sudan as of 23 March. Of these, 68 per cent are South Sudanese returnees while Sudanese refugees represent 31 per cent. The Joda/Renk Border remains the most popular entry point accounting for 56 per cent of all entries. UNHCR has biometrically registered 225,398 refugees from Sudan since the beginning of the response.

Relocation

In Renk, 364 individuals are waiting to be relocated to Aweil, 62 to Jamjang and 49 to Maban. UNHCR, the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) as well as the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) engaged refugee leaders to inform them that due to funding constraints vulnerable refugees will be prioritised for relocations from now on.

Health and Nutrition

In Jamjang, 27 children under the age of five were screened for malnutrition in Yida, with 7 referred for treatment.

In Unity State, cholera cases declined slightly, with 261 suspected cases and 5 deaths reported as of 22 March, compared to 446 cases and 7 deaths in the previous week. Since the outbreak began, there have been 17,698 suspected cases and 347 deaths. The decline is credited to ongoing health cluster response efforts.

In Maban, UNHCR in partnership with Relief International screened seven children and one pregnant woman at Gendrassa and Doro reception centres with no malnutrition cases detected. Cumulatively, 293 children and 65 pregnant/breastfeeding women have been screened since January.

In Renk, 1,382 children under the age of five were screened. Of these, 5 per cent were found to be moderately malnourished and 2.6 per cent severely malnourished. Among 409 pregnant and breastfeeding women, 3 per cent were diagnosed with moderate malnutrition.

In the Eastern and Western corridors (Zero, Banjang, Bobnis, and Gosfami), 972 children under the age of five were screened, with 3.7 per cent identified as having severe malnutrition and 8 per cent with moderate malnutrition. Of the 242 pregnant and breastfeeding women screened, none were found to be malnourished.

WASH, Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

In Renk, UNHCR carried out a clean-up campaign targeting open defecation areas, drainage, and overall sanitation across both transit centres. The initiative saw active participation from community members and humanitarian partners, with over 75 individuals engaged in transit centre 2 and approximately 30 participants per day involved in transit centre 1.

In Renk, UNHCR distributed core relief items to 99 households benefitting 335 individuals with specific needs at the transit centres. The items distributed included 103 plastic sheets, 118 blankets, 116 sleeping mats, and 95 buckets.

UGANDA

Highlights

- Since the onset of the conflict in April 2023, Uganda has registered a total of 74,544 Sudanese refugees.
- As of 24 March, 8,996 refugees from Sudan have been registered of 9,746 Sudanese new arrivals since January.
- As of 24 March, Kiryandongo alone had recorded 45 cholera alerts including twelve confirmed cholera cases (all among refugees). The total deaths in the Adjumani Area of Responsibility (AOR) remains at four with no new death recorded during this reporting period.

Population Movements, Registration, and Relocation

During the period under review, a total of 1,378 Sudanese refugees were registered in Uganda. This represents a 34 per cent decrease compared to the 2,086 registered in the previous reporting period.

During the two weeks under review, a total of 1,395 new arrivals from Sudan were received in the settlements. This marks a 6.2 per cent decrease from the 1,487 new arrivals recorded in the last reporting period.

Out of the 74,544 Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers registered in Uganda, 9,503 (12.7 per cent) are urban refugees, located in Kampala. No new refugees from Sudan were registered in the urban area in the last two weeks.

A total of 1,821 Sudanese individuals (750 households) were relocated from Kiryandongo, Nyumanzi, Ocea, and Imvepi reception centres to their respective plots in the settlement during the two weeks under review. Nevertheless, overcrowding in reception centres remains severe, particularly in Kiryandongo, which continues to operate at 176 per cent capacity. This is due to an ongoing influx of new arrivals that outpaces relocation efforts. Despite operational constraints (limited transport, land preparation delays, and staffing gaps), UNHCR is actively engaging partners to address these bottlenecks and mitigate protection risks arising from prolonged overstay at reception centres.

Protection

Prima facie recognition for Sudanese asylum seekers remains in force. General violence and insecurity resulted in 1,395 new Sudanese arrivals in Uganda mainly from South Kordofan, Darfur and Khartoum,

during the reporting period. As of 24 March, 31 per cent (1,357 out of 4,394 individuals) of the refugees hosted in Adjumani, Arua and Kiryandongo reception centres are Sudanese nationals.

Legal and physical protection

In Kiryandongo, 1 case of physical assault was registered. The suspects were arrested, and the victim is receiving medical and psychosocial support.

Community-based protection

In Kiryandongo, a total of 394 cases were registered at the protection desks in the youth center and Magamaga. These cases involved health-related needs, education, and general protection issues relating to shelter and food. All cases were logged in the protection database for tracking with those requiring additional support given appropriate referrals to specialized partners for health services, educational support, and shelter/food assistance.

In Kiryandongo, trained youth engaged in building and construction were supported with construction tools and have secured five private shelter construction contracts (currently at wall and roofing levels). They are also constructing shelters for people with specific needs (PSN) at no cost. Additionally, eight skilled youth groups comprising 102 members who received startup kits between January and February this year were monitored, showing significant progress.

In Kiryandongo (Cluster A and OQ), 100 refugees participated in a community dialogue aimed at addressing protection concerns. Key issues identified included poor leadership structure, inadequate water supply, insufficient Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) support for new arrivals, interpersonal conflicts, limited health equipment and medication, language barriers, and land conflicts. During the dialogue, strategies were discussed to address these challenges and enhance the community's well-being and peaceful coexistence.

UNHCR organized a peacebuilding sports tournament in Kiryandongo, bringing together 60 youth from refugee, host community, and IDP backgrounds. Six mixed teams competed using UNHCR-provided sports equipment, reinforcing the message: "We do not play with peace; we play for peace."

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

In Kiryandongo, 50 community members attended psychoeducation sessions on sexual exploitation and psychological first aid. The sessions emphasized prevention, reporting mechanisms, and raised awareness on addressing sexual exploitation and abuse.

With support from UNICEF, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) conducted critical capacity-building sessions in Kiryandongo settlement, training 58 key stakeholders (38 women and 20 men) including community structures, police, and school staff. Training focused on Psychological First Aid (PFA) and PSEA.

Support to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs)

Vulnerability assessments were conducted for 59 Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) across the Adjumani Area of Responsibility (AoR) through home visits, identifying urgent protection risks and immediate needs such as medical care, assistive devices, shelter, and protection services. The assessments covered Adjumani (18 individuals), Lamwo (8), and Kiryandongo (33), strengthening data for targeted assistance planning. Following this, 13 high-risk Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Kiryandongo received assistive devices, including crutches, to enhance safe mobility and access to essential services.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response

In Kiryandongo, 223 individuals participated in awareness-raising sessions highlighting the importance of maintaining a non-violent home. Additionally, seven solar streetlights were installed in dark spots across the settlement and at the reception centre to address concerns raised by women and girls during a 2024 safety audit.

Education

In Kiryandongo, UNHCR's partner, Windle International Uganda (WIU), distributed 135 plastic chairs to six Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres to help create a safe and conducive learning environment.

Additionally, 73 Sudanese students at Kiryandongo High School received backpacks. WIU also facilitated the transportation of seven Special Needs Education students from Kiryandongo to Gulu High Secondary School and Nancy Comprehensive School for the Deaf in Lira. The students were also provided with essential personal items.

The Education Cannot Wait Multi-Year Resilience Programme II (ECW MYRP II) project, led by Finn Church Aid (FCA) in collaboration with War Child Alliance and Cheshire Services, was launched to improve access to and the quality of education for Sudanese refugees in Kiryandongo. The project will benefit over 34,300 children and adolescents across several schools by constructing classrooms and latrines, providing desks, and supporting ECD activities. Additionally, teachers will be trained on inclusion, protection, gender-sensitive methodologies, and remedial learning techniques.

Health and Nutrition

UNHCR participated in a community feedback session in Kiryandongo, where WFP addressed the consequences of severe funding shortfalls. The community was informed that cash assistance will be significantly reduced from March to May 2024, directly impacting household food security and livelihoods. UNHCR and its partners are advocating for urgent donor support to mitigate the effects of these cuts.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) food donation distribution exercise for Sudanese refugees was successfully concluded, reaching 2,641 households comprising 10,511 individuals. The remaining food will be delivered to community kitchens within the settlement, as agreed upon during the pre-planning meeting.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Kiryandongo, water samples collected from various water points within the settlement and tested showed signs of contamination. As a corrective measure, the trucked water tank will be cleaned and chlorinated to ensure safe water distribution. The community will also be sensitized on the safe water chain to promote proper water handling and storage practices.

Additionally, 101 new arrivals (51 women and 50 men) attended two environmental health and hygiene campaign sessions, which covered topics such as food hygiene management, environmental hygiene, proper solid waste management techniques, handwashing practices, the safe water chain, vector control mechanisms, personal hygiene, and menstrual management. In the same area, 10 cleaners (4 men and 6 women) ensured the reception centre and the new site in Cluster A were clean.

In Kiryandongo, 12 temporary communal latrine blocks, each with two stances, and 14 bath shelters were constructed in Cluster A to provide new arrivals with dignified and safe sanitary amenities for waste disposal and to prevent open defecation, which could potentially lead to disease outbreaks. Additionally, three latrine blocks at the reception centre were dislodged by the skilled "Tuyungane Gulper Team" to ensure optimal utilization of the available latrine blocks by the new arrivals.

UNICEF, through its direct implementation, drilled four production wells in clusters P, G, Bududa, and OQ, with yields of 27, 17, 4.5 m³/hr, and 18 m³/hr respectively, ensuring sustainable water supply solutions for the settlement. Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) began the motorization of the borehole in Cluster E, which will supply water to Cluster D. Additionally, water treatment at Siriba stream continued, with 70,000 litres of water being trucked to the settlement daily.

Access to Energy and Natural Resources

In Kiryandongo, 75 individuals (39 women and 36 men) were sensitized on environmental conservation and waste management around their households. They were encouraged to use energy-efficient cookstoves and access tree seedlings to plant during the wet season.

Coordination and Missions

A two-day ECW mission in Kiryandongo concluded positively, reaffirming the team's commitment to supporting Uganda's efforts in refugee education. The district leadership took the lead in organizing activities, with support from OPM, UNHCR, and other partners. The mission highlighted progress, challenges, and innovative approaches in expanding access to education for refugees, which were appreciated by the visiting team.

On 18 March, Sweden's Minister of International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, visited the Arua Sub Office, accompanied by the UN Resident Coordinator in Uganda, Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda, UNHCR Uganda Deputy Representative and technical staff from the Swedish Ministry in Kampala. The delegation was received by the Head of Sub Office, who briefed them on the operation's strategic direction, achievements and challenges in managing new refugee arrivals. The mission visited Rhino Camp Settlement, including the Ocea Reception Centre to observe the reception of refugees from South Sudan and Sudan, Ocea Primary School to assess learning conditions, and beneficiaries of the Nutri-Cash Program. The delegation acknowledged UNHCR and its partners' efforts in providing essential services despite funding constraints.

Critical Gaps

Overcrowding at Kiryandongo reception centre

Due to the continuous influx of new arrivals, Kiryandongo reception centre is overcrowded, currently operating at 176 per cent capacity (661 against a maximum capacity of 375 individuals). The situation is further exacerbated by several relocated individuals who return to stay overnight despite ongoing efforts to ensure they remain in their designated plots. This situation has significantly strained resources and deteriorated reception conditions, particularly affecting WASH, health, and protection services thus compromising the well-being of new arrival refugees.

WASH Gaps

In Kiryandongo, the supply of clean water remains critically low. The number of litres per person per day (l/p/d) has decreased from 14 l/p/d in January 2024 to 10 l/p/d in March 2025. Despite several water infrastructure investments, the resources available do not match the pace of new arrivals. WASH challenges, such as low latrine coverage and limited handwashing facilities, further increase vulnerability to diseases. There are overwhelming latrine emptying needs due to the increasing population of new arrivals at Elegu, Nyumanzi and Kiryandongo reception centres. Current resources are insufficient to meet the escalating demand, resulting in heightened health risks, including the potential spread of waterborne diseases, and deteriorating hygiene conditions for both refugees and host communities. Additionally, there is a rise in non-communicable diseases among refugees, with a gap in the availability of appropriate treatments for chronic health conditions.

Healthcare challenges

In Kiryandongo, there are poor hygiene practices in public places, high levels of malnutrition due to funding shortages, a shortage of healthcare workers, and inadequate medicines and supplies¹, which strain medical services, low measles vaccination coverage leading to outbreaks, and human resource gaps affecting client care and HIV-TB clinic operations. High mobility and frequent social gatherings increase disease transmission risks, necessitating reinforced Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures and restrictions on gatherings. Additionally, there is a lack of cans for Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) corners in community places, highlighting the need for more resources and support.

Overcrowding in classrooms

In Kiryandongo, overcrowded classrooms significantly affect the quality of education for pupils, exacerbated by an influx of new arrivals enrolling in schools. Limited classroom space and seating pose major challenges, while long travel distances to schools discourage attendance. Many schools are situated in areas occupied by earlier arrivals, forcing new arrivals to relocate further away, resulting in lengthy daily commutes for those who do attend. In practical terms, prior to the Sudanese influx, the pupil to student ratio in Kiryandongo settlement was 60 students to one teacher. While this number is already significantly below the recommended standard of 40 students to one teacher, the situation has dramatically worsened since then, bringing the ratio to 85 students to one teacher.

¹ Bi-weekly mass screenings at Nyumanzi and Kiryandongo Reception Centres have revealed critical levels of malnutrition among children. At Nyumanzi reception centre, malnutrition rates stand at 22.9 per cent, significantly exceeding the 15 per cent emergency threshold. Although the situation at Kiryandongo reception centre is comparatively better, the malnutrition rate of 11.6 per cent remains concerning, compounded by poor hygiene practices in public spaces and ongoing funding shortages. In response to the alarming situation at Nyumanzi, UNHCR and WFP have agreed to activate a blanket supplementary feeding program to address the urgent nutritional needs of affected children.

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. As of 30 March, the total reported funding for the RRP reached some USD 109.4 million, representing **6%** of the required amount. 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 30 March, the total funding for the HRP reached USD 406.2 million, covering **9.8%** 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**.

Resources

- NEW! [UNHCR: Funding cuts threaten the health of nearly 13 million displaced people](#)
- NEW! [Darfur Protection of Civilians Flash Update: Indiscriminate Use of Heavy Weapons in Rural El Fasher](#)
- NEW! [Urgent appeal as major donors reduce life-saving funding amid Sudan crisis](#)
- [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](#))