

Sudan

As of 13 January 2020

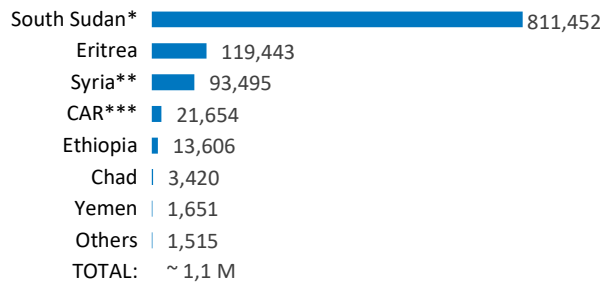
After the removal of long-time President Bashir in 2019, **Sudan is led by a transitional government** who is engaged in a **peace process** in the middle of an economic crisis affecting millions of Sudanese.

Nearly **1,9 million Sudanese live as internally displaced** in Sudan, that hosts **1,1 million refugees**. While humanitarian access and security have improved in some areas, there were setbacks that led to new displacement in Darfur.

Increasing, but **insufficient international support**, including the UN Peacebuilding Fund, will allow UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and partners to continue their support to peace process and solutions for IDPs, returnees and refugees.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



* Total number of South Sudanese refugees includes UNHCR/COR registered refugees, Immigration Passport Police (IPP) registered and unregistered population. Government sources estimate a total of 1.3 million South Sudanese refugees in Sudan; however, these data require verification.

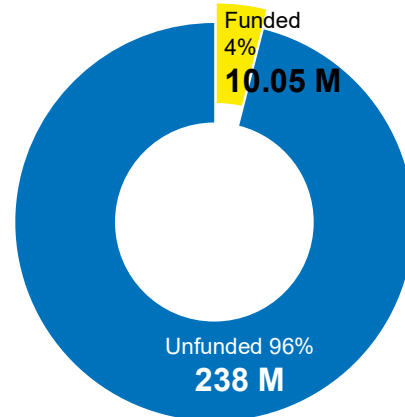
** includes both individuals registered by UNHCR and COR, and IPP statistics on annual arrivals and departures

***There are new arrivals from CAR in Central and South Darfur, all 7,216 individuals reported as unregistered arrivals in November.

FUNDING (AS OF JANUARY 2020)

USD 248.5 M

requested for the Sudan situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

UNHCR's operation in Sudan started over 50 years ago, today UNHCR in Sudan provides protection and support to asylum-seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDP), Sudanese refugee returnees and IDP returnees, as well as persons at risk of statelessness.

Staff:

- 285 National Staff
- 68 International Staff
- 109 affiliated workforce (nat.&int.)

Offices:

- 1 Branch Office in Khartoum
- 9 Field Offices in Abu Jubeiha, Ed dEain, El Geneina, El Obeid, El Radoom, El Fula, Khashm El Girba, Nyala and Zalingei
- 4 Sub Offices in El Fasher, Kassala, Kadugli and Kosti



Operational Context

- As of 30 November 2019, Sudan is hosting some 1.1 million refugees and asylum-seekers, and UNHCR works closely with its government counterpart, the Commission for Refugees (COR), on asylum issues. UNHCR also provides protection and assistance to internally displaced people (IDP) and is engaged in tackling situations of (potential) statelessness. Some 70 percent of refugees in Sudan are living in an out-of-camp situation, with a significant dependence on the support and generosity of the host community and local authorities. The high inflation and the rising cost of living drastically affected livelihoods for the entire population. Moreover, tensions with host communities are on the increase. Therefore, there is an urgent need for sustainable assistance approaches for out-of-camp refugees and their host communities, including alignment with national development planning.
- The demonstrations over the increase of bread prices and poor living conditions that began in December 2018 led to the removal of President Bashir by the Transitional Military Council (TMC) on 11 April 2019 and the dissolution of his government. After an ensuing period marked by unrest, the opposition coalition known as the Forces for Freedom and Change and the TMC signed a new Constitutional Declaration Document on 17 August 2019 to establish a new political era in the country. This power sharing agreement between the military and civilians came after extensive mediation by the African Union (OAU) and Ethiopia and created a joint military and civilian sovereign council to rule for some three years until democratic elections shall be held.
- The economic situation, however, continues deteriorating, with inflation steadily hovering around the 70 percent mark since December 2018. Even though US economic sanctions on Sudan were lifted in October 2017, delisting Sudan from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list remains a major issue to address for Sudan to access international finance instruments and debt relief.
- While UNHCR and partners in Sudan have already been operating in a challenging environment, the deteriorating economic situation, cash liquidity problems, the fuel crisis, and inflation have rendered the provision of protection and assistance difficult. Sudan's overall security situation deteriorated during the first half of 2019, with reports of increased violence and criminality, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), particularly in Khartoum.
- There has also been a resurgence of violence in parts of Darfur, along with other tensions related to the denial of access to farmlands and other land disputes. In recent weeks, intercommunal clashes between Massalit and Arab tribes in El Geneina, West Darfur, displaced some 40,000 people, most of whom had already been displaced before and resided in three camps for IDPs. In addition, a UNHCR mission in Chad found some 5,500 Sudanese men, women and children who had fled across the border to seek shelter in 12 villages. Additionally, renewed inter-tribal violence in areas of Birao locality in north-eastern Central African Republic continues to force people to flee their homes and seek safety in Darfur, Sudan. In November and December, more than 12,000 persons arrived in Sudan, bringing the total of new arrivals for 2019 to some 17,000.
- UNHCR's strategic approaches include contributing to local infrastructure and mainstreaming service provision for refugees within national structures wherever possible. Building and advocating for refugees' self-reliance, and ensuring access to sustainable livelihood activities, are cornerstones of the out-of-camp response strategy and will be key factors in its successful implementation.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR implements the refugee coordination model in Sudan and co-leads the national inter-agency Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF), which includes sector level Technical Advisory Groups as well as field-level Refugee Working Groups that contribute to more effective coordination of the refugee response at each level.
- UNHCR works with a main government counterpart, COR, in addition to line ministries, including the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Welfare and Social Security, Education, Health and the Civil Registry, as well as with the Department of Water, Environment and Sanitation, the Directorate of Immigration and Passports Police (IPP), the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and other authorities. UNHCR also works with more than 50 international and national NGO partners implementing activities across the country.
- UNHCR leads the coordination of the 2020 Sudan Country Refugee Response Plan, the first inter-agency, comprehensive and multi-sectoral response plan which brings together 34 humanitarian and development partners to cover the needs of all major refugee populations in Sudan, including: South Sudanese, refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR), Chadians, urban refugees living in Khartoum, and refugees in East Sudan. With a budget requirement of some 477 million USD it targets over 900,000 refugees as well as more than 226,000 host community beneficiaries.
- Furthermore, UNHCR leads the coordination of the South Sudan Refugee Response Plan in Sudan, which is an inter-agency response strategy to address the protection and humanitarian needs of South Sudanese refugees. The 2019-2020 RRP for Sudan is costed at USD 321 M for 2020, and it includes the financial requirements for 28 partners across eight sectors (Protection, Education, Emergency Shelter/Non-Food items - ES/NFI, Food, Health and Nutrition, Livelihoods, Energy, and Water/Sanitation/Health).
- As the lead on the Protection and ES/NFI Sectors for IDPs, UNHCR works closely with partners to identify priority needs and to ensure a coordinated response, which includes joint planning in the Humanitarian Country Team and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Sudan. UNHCR coordinates closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Development for the Protection Sector, and HAC for the ES/NFI Sector. Moreover, UNHCR promotes protection mainstreaming across other sectors, in addition to working closely with the Return, Recovery, and Reintegration Sector. UNHCR is an active member of the Durable Solutions Working Group.
- UNHCR, together with IOM, co-chairs the Counter Trafficking & Mixed Migration Working Group (CTWG) which brings various UN agencies, international NGOs together with the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking. The CTWG supports coordination between actors on the national and the State level technically and logistically.

Main Refugee Groups and IDPs

South Sudanese Refugees

- South Sudanese refugees constitute the largest refugee population in Sudan, with over 810,000 refugees living across all States; more than half arrived in Sudan after the outbreak of armed conflict in South Sudan in December 2013. A significant number continued to live in Sudan after the secession of South Sudan in 2011, and they were recognized as refugees by the government in September 2016. There are eleven camps in White Nile and East Darfur States, with the majority living in out-of-camps settlements and urban areas among host communities. As of 30 November 2019, Khartoum hosts over 280,000 South Sudanese refugees, with more than 60,000 registered refugees living in nine 'open area' settlements characterized with high needs and limited assistance.
- In 2019, there were more than 18,000 new arrivals of South Sudanese refugees (as of 30 November 2019).

- UNHCR has monitored about 60,000 South Sudanese refugees returning home. UNHCR recorded that more than 25,000 South Sudanese refugees returned from Sudan in a spontaneous and self-organised manner in June and July 2019 following the unrest in Sudan.
- As the South Sudan crisis enters its seventh year, there is a need to move beyond emergency response and focus on longer-term solutions that can strengthen the resilience and self-reliance of refugees, particularly those living outside of camps. This in turn requires a focus to integrate refugees within national public services, and investments in permanent or more durable infrastructure, greater self-reliance, effective community participation, and durable solution where necessary. UNHCR Sudan has been advocating for the out-of-camp policy assistance model to respond to humanitarian needs for South Sudanese refugees in a sustainable manner.

Eritrean and Ethiopian Refugees

- As of 30 November 2019, over 119,000 Eritreans and some 13,600 Ethiopians are refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan, with the majority living in camps in Kassala and Gedaref States in the East. Many refugees in the East have lived there since the 1960s, with approximately 55 percent of camp-based refugees born in the camps. The general protection environment in Eastern Sudan has been affected by the current political and security situation in the country.
- In 2019, more than 9,000 men, women and children arrived (mostly from Eritrea) in East Sudan. An estimated 50 percent of the new arrivals migrate onwards, thus becoming vulnerable to criminal smuggling or trafficking networks. The number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) moving along these routes is high.

Central African Republic Refugees

- Refugees from CAR have sought refuge in the urban settings of Nyala, South Darfur, since 2014. Renewed inter-communal violence in areas of Birao locality in north-eastern CAR continues to force people to flee their homes and seek safety in Darfur, Sudan.

Chadian Refugees

- Since the outbreak of violence in Chad in 2005-2007, Central Darfur State has hosted more than 8,000 Chadian refugees. This population has mostly repatriated, with over 3,000 still remaining in Um Shalaya Camp in Central Darfur State. Following the signing of a Tripartite Agreement between UNHCR and the two governments in 2017, repatriation of Chadians began in December 2017, but was halted in April 2019 with the hope to resume in 2020.

Syrian and Yemeni Refugees

- As of 30 November 2019, out of some estimated 93,500 Syrian refugees in Khartoum State, 13,500 refugees were registered by UNHCR and COR, and over 1,600 Yemeni refugees in Sudan were registered using biometric data. The former Sudanese Government accepted Syrians and Yemenis into the country based on the Islamic notion as 'brothers and sisters', therefore no visa requirements were imposed for entry or residency. However, recent reports and discussions indicate that this may change in the near future. The majority of new arrivals settle in the Khartoum area and are integrated into urban communities. Bases on discussions and assessments, their main challenges are economic hardship, vulnerability to inflation, lack of access to income generating opportunities, affordable education, and psychosocial support particularly for children.

Other Refugees

- Other refugee populations (Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, etc.) amount to over 1,500 individuals and are mostly living in urban areas in Khartoum. They are heavily reliant on sharing scarce resources and limited welfare services with the host communities. Refugees and asylum-seekers are registered through UNHCR and COR and

receive assistance in the areas of health, education, livelihoods and legal aid. Moreover, UNHCR has a systematized cash-based intervention programme (since 2016) for the most vulnerable.

Internally Displaced People and Returnees

- There are nearly 1,9 million IDPs in Sudan. UNHCR coordinates the Protection Sector and the ES/NFI Sectors, covering assistance primarily to IDPs and returnees in Darfur and the Kordofan States. In recent weeks, intercommunal clashes between Massalit and Arab tribes in El Geneina, West Darfur, displaced some 40,000 people, most of whom had already been displaced before and resided in three camps for IDPs.
- In the ES/NFI Sector, UNHCR ensures the distribution of shelter assistance and NFIs to IDPs (newly displaced and protracted cases), returnees, and vulnerable host communities affected by conflict and natural disasters. Furthermore, UNHCR manages the core/main NFI pipeline on behalf of the humanitarian community in Sudan.
- UNHCR leads the Protection Sector in Sudan, working closely with the Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, (GBV) and Mine Action Sub-Sectors. UNHCR coordinates and implements protection monitoring for newly displaced and newly-accessible populations, as well as for protracted IDP situations with high rates of protection incidents, linked to urgent service provision at the individual, household and community level – this is particularly important where the evolving security situation has resulted in heightened vulnerability of IDPs and returnees. UNHCR and protection partners also focus on capacity-building targeting community-based protection networks and local authorities; promoting protection and gender mainstreaming across other humanitarian sectors; as well as advocacy to maintain and strengthen the protection environment, including promoting equitable access to services.
- Peaceful coexistence between communities is consistently being promoted in IDP return areas, which is done through building or rehabilitating essential facilities (police stations, community spaces, etc.), introducing youth activities, and supporting livelihoods.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan, which is accomplished by working in close in partnership with the government and other authorities. Moreover, UNHCR also works with national and international partners, including NGOs and UN agencies, funds and programmes, to provide protection and assistance to all people affected by displacement in the country. With UNHCR's support COR conducts the registration of asylum-seekers and refugees using Biometric Identity Management System. COR is also responsible for refugee status determination (RSD) with UNHCR oversight and technical and financial support. Eritreans and Ethiopians are the largest groups undergoing RSD, with other major groups such as South Sudanese and Syrians falling under group recognition or other protection regimes.

Education

- As at November 2019, it is estimated that over 350,000 refugee children are of school going age (basic and secondary schools). It is further estimated that in some states, up to 67% of the school aged children are out-of-school. Common issues cited include economic capabilities of the parents, accessibility issues, poor state of schools available, high dropout rates, child labour and inconsistencies in school attendance among others. Long term advocacy has resulted in the inclusion of refugee education in the current government sector strategic plan. This will help to ensure that refugee children are incorporated in the government planning. UNHCR has supported this process and will continue to work with the government to support the implementation of this plan which suffers from a huge funding gap.

Shelter and non-food items

- In 2019, UNHCR has provided life-saving NFIs to some 1,3 million people across Sudan, including refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities affected by natural disasters.
- The NFI basic kit consists of plastic sheets, blankets, sleeping kitchen set, and 20 litre jerry can per household. Larger households (greater than five people) are provided additional items to meet their needs. Furthermore, refugees also receive seasonal mosquito nets.
- UNHCR as sector lead ensures a coordinated response, making NFIs available to front-line responders during an emergency.
- Major recipients are South Sudanese refugees (over 360,000), IDPs in Darfur and Kordofan and newly displaced people in Darfur (a total of over 765,000 beneficiaries). NFI distributions also generally support some 15 percent of the most vulnerable individuals of the host community.
- The NFI Core Pipelines (separate pipelines exist for the refugee and IDP populations), managed by UNHCR on behalf of the sector, procure and store NFIs in strategically located warehouses in Nyala, El Fashir, El Geneina, El Obeid, Khartoum and Kassala, which serve as hubs for further distribution.
- Blanket distributions are conducted to all newly displaced families, based on the Displaced Tracking Matrix provided by IOM or new (refugee) arrivals which are based on registration in ProGres (refugee data system) and initial assessment reports.

Mixed Migration

- Sudan is a source, transit and asylum country for asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants along the East Africa Migratory Route into North Africa and Europe. In 2019, some 800 people on average arrived in East Sudan every month. These new arrivals are assisted by COR at the border and are temporarily hosted in reception centres before being transported to Shagarab camp to undergo screening, registration, and refugee status determination (RSD) while receiving shelter and other assistance. However, the majority of new arrivals choose to move onwards, thus becoming vulnerable to criminal networks involved in human trafficking and smuggling.
- Socio-economic challenges such as the lack of access to education, health, water, sanitation, and livelihood opportunities, as well as protection concerns, are often cited by refugees as the primary factors in their choice to move on. The Telling the Real Story campaign aims to facilitate accurate information sharing and community dialogue on the risks associated with irregular migration, and to promote safe alternatives. In 2019, the campaign engaged more than 15,000 Eritreans in Khartoum and over 58,000 Eritreans and Ethiopians in East Sudan through diverse communication channels such as outreach volunteers, readings in schools, video screenings etc.
- In 2019, UNHCR alongside partners, revived the previously inactive Counter-Trafficking and Mixed Migration Working Group (CTWG), which UNHCR co-chairs with IOM.

Durable Solutions

- Voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Chad started in April 2018 after the signing of a Tripartite Agreement between UNHCR, Sudan and Chad. Some 3,800 Sudanese refugees have returned to Darfur, with another 5,000 projected to return. The events of June 2019 and increased tensions in return areas have forced UNHCR to temporarily stop voluntary repatriation. Land occupation has hindered the ability of some returnees to re-establish themselves in their villages of origin in Darfur, especially with mechanisms to address land occupation and disputes being generally weak. The returnees were assisted with return packages, cash-based interventions, and transportation, and UNHCR also initiated reintegration assistance to upgrade basic services in return areas.
- UNHCR uses resettlement strategically as a durable solution and a protection tool. Following the implementation of recommendations of an integrity mission to Sudan, resettlement processing was resumed in August 2019.

External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors in 2019

United States of America | European Union | European Commission for Humanitarian Aid | Netherlands | UN African Union Hybrid Operation Darfur | Canada | Switzerland |

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2019

Thanks to other donors in 2019

Italy | CERF | World Food Programme | Republic of Korea | Intergovernmental Authority on Development | Norway | Luxemburg |

Other softly earmarked contributions in 2019

Germany | Private donors Australia | Private donors Germany | Norway | Canada | Sweden | Private donors Republic of Korea | Denmark | Kuwait | Finland | Estonia | Japan | Liechtenstein | Luxemburg | Malta | Poland | Private donors

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