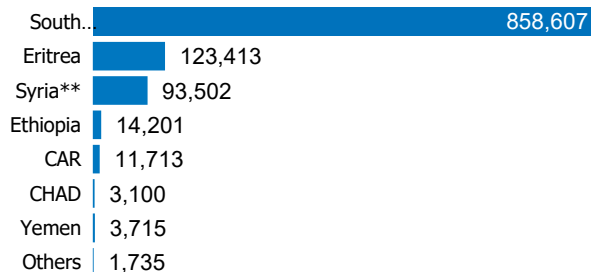


POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

(as of 31 July 2019)

Refugees and Asylum Seekers by Country of Origin

Internally Displaced Persons: 1.86 million

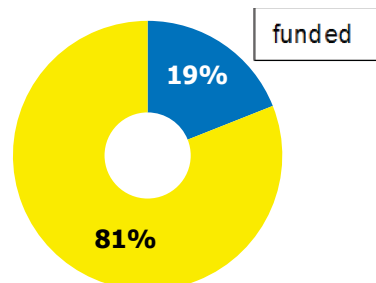
Refugee returnees (UNHCR facilitated): 3,819 (since April 2018; from Chad)

*The total number of South Sudanese refugees includes UNHCR/COR registered refugees, Immigration Passport Police (IPP) registered figures and unregistered populations. Additional sources estimate a total of 1.3 million South Sudanese refugees in Sudan; however, the data requires verification.

**The total number of Syrian refugees includes both individuals registered by UNHCR and COR, as well as IPP statistics on annual arrivals and departures since 2011.

2019 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

(as of 06 August 2019)

USD 268.7 M

UNHCR's PRESENCE IN SUDAN

UNHCR's operation in Sudan started over 50 years ago to provide protection and assistance to Eritrean refugees in Gedaref State. 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.

Sudan hosts over 1.1 million refugees and asylum-seekers, and some 1.86 million IDPs in Sudan.

UNHCR operates in 11 States through:

- 430 staff - 70 internationals, 264 nationals and 96 affiliated workforce (int. & nat.)
- 14 offices (Khartoum, Kosti, Kadugli, Abu Jubaiha, El Fula, Kassala, Girba, Gedaref, El Fasher, El Daein, El Geneina, Nyala, El Radom, and Zalingei).



1. OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

1.1. Political Situation

The demonstrations that began in December 2018 over the increase of bread prices and poor living conditions have led to a historical political transformation in Sudan. Pressured by growing demonstrations, a Transitional Military Council (TMC) removed President Bashir from power on 11 April 2019 and dissolved the government. After an ensuing period marked with violence and widespread turmoil, the opposition coalition known as the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC) and the TMC signed a new Constitutional Declaration Document on 17 August 2019 to usher a new political era in the country. This power sharing agreement between the military and civilians came after extensive AU and Ethiopian mediation efforts. A Sovereign Council (to lead the transition period for three years before having elections) was established on 22 August 2019, and a Council of Ministers is expected to be formed by early September 2019.

The economic situation has even further deteriorated in 2019, 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.

1.2. Populations of Concern (PoC)

As of 31 July 2019, Sudan is hosting 1,109,986 refugees and asylum-seekers, and UNHCR works closely with its government counterpart, the Sudan Commission for Refugees (COR), on asylum issues. UNHCR also provides protection and assistance to internally displaced persons (IDP) and is engaged in tackling situations of statelessness or 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 drop in the value of the local currency and the rising cost of living drastically affected the livelihoods of people including UNHCR's populations of concern (PoC). Moreover, tensions with host communities are on the increase, especially concerning South Sudanese in Khartoum and its 'open areas'. 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.

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.

1.3. Protection

UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan, which is accomplished by working in close partnership with the Government of Sudan and state 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 PoCs in the country. With UNHCR's support, the Commission of Refugee (COR) conducts the registration of asylum-seekers and refugees using Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS). Moreover, COR is 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 large groups such as South Sudanese and Syrians falling under group recognition or other protection regimes.

UNHCR uses resettlement strategically as a durable solution and a protection tool. Following allegations of corruption in UNHCR's resettlement processing from Sudan, resettlement was suspended in May 2018. This led to the deployment of an integrity/anti-fraud mission to Sudan in June 2018, and the implementation of the recommendations from the mission has progressed well. In August 2019 the suspension of resettlement processing from Sudan was lifted and resettlement activities are planned to resume.

1.4. Impact on Operations

While noting that UNHCR and partners in Sudan have already been operating in a challenging environment, the deteriorating economic situation, cash liquidity problems, the fuel crisis, and record inflation and devaluation of the currency, have rendered the provision of protection and assistance to all PoC extremely 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. The resurgence of violent attacks in parts Darfur, along with the denial of access to farmlands and other land disputes, are also worrying.

2. REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

2.1. South Sudanese Refugees

- South Sudanese refugees constitute the largest refugee population in Sudan, with over 858,607 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 of South Sudanese nationals 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 11 camps in White Nile and East Darfur States, with some 79 percent living in out-of-camps settlements and urban areas among host communities. As of 15 July 2019, Khartoum hosts an estimated 283,895 South Sudanese refugees, with more than 50,000 registered refugees living in nine 'open area' settlements characterized with high needs and limited assistance.
- In 2019 there were 14,758 new arrivals of South Sudanese refugees (as of 31 July 2019).
- In 2019 alone, UNHCR has monitored nearly 60,000 South Sudanese refugees returning from neighbouring countries. 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 sixth 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.
- In terms of the Regional Response Plan for South Sudanese refugees in Sudan, the inter-agency partners' capacity to respond to needs in Sudan is very stretched with a critical funding gap exceeding 90 percent.

2.2. Eritrean and Ethiopian Refugees

- As of 31 July 2019, over 123,413 Eritreans and some 14,201 Ethiopians are refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan, with the majority living in camps in Kassala and Gedaref States in the East. Many of the refugees in the East have lived there since the 1960s, with approximately 55 percent of camp-based refugees born in the camps.
- In 2019 new arrivals to Eastern Sudan continued with 6,441 new arrivals (mostly from Eritrea) as of 31 July 2019. An estimated 50 percent of the new arrivals migrate onwards, thus becoming vulnerable to criminal networks involved in human smuggling and trafficking. Moreover, there are high numbers of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) moving along these routes.

2.3. Central African Republic (CAR) Refugees

- CAR refugees have sought refuge in the urban settings of Nyala, South Darfur, since 2014. New arrivals were also witnessed in Dimso and Al Radom areas starting from 2017. As of 31 July 2019, there are some 11,713 CAR refugees in Sudan, with 11,535 (98 percent) residing in South Darfur and 5,070 of them

biometrically registered. All 2019 new arrivals were registered and provided with humanitarian assistance. Although CAR refugees are a relatively small population, they are particularly vulnerable.

2.4. 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 3100 still remaining in Um Shalaya Camp in Central Darfur State (as of 31 July 2019). Following the signing of a Tripartite Agreement between UNHCR and the two Governments in May 2017, the repatriation of Chadians began in December 2017, and since then 6,030 refugees have voluntarily repatriated. It is expected that the remaining Chadians refugees in Sudan will repatriate in 2019.

2.5. Syrian and Yemeni Refugees

- Out of an estimated 93,403 Syrian refugees in Khartoum State, 13,575 refugees were registered by UNHCR-COR (about 15 percent), and 3,715 Yemeni refugees in Sudan were registered with biometric data (100 percent).
- The former Sudanese Government accepted Syrians and Yemenis into the country based on the concept of Muslim solidarity to 'brothers and sisters,' therefore no visa requirements are imposed for entry or residency. The majority of new arrivals settle in the Khartoum area and are integrated into urban communities. Their main challenges are economic hardship, vulnerability to inflation, lack of access to income generating opportunities, affordable education, and psychosocial support particularly for children.

2.6. Other Refugees

- Other refugee populations (Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, etc.) amount to 1,735 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) that has extending financial assistance to the most vulnerable.

3. INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDP) & RETURNEES

- As of July 2019, there are some 1.86 IDPs in Sudan. UNHCR coordinates the Protection Sector and the Emergency Shelter and NFI (ES/NFI) Sector, coordinating assistance primarily to IDPs and returnees in Darfur and the Kordofan States.
- 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. Moreover, 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 also 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, as well as in the context of UNAMID drawdown. 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.
- As the African Union - United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) began phasing out of Darfur, UNAMID and the United Nations Country Team in Sudan (UNCT) jointly developed a transition concept of State Liaison Functions (SLF) to support this process. The SLF concept aims to provide sustainable solutions to the critical drivers of conflict through working on critical issue to prevent relapse and enable the Government, UN agencies, civil society and international actors to prepare for UNAMID's envisaged exit. Interventions focus on three priority areas, namely the rule of law, resilience and livelihoods/durable solutions, and human rights. As a key member of the SLF, UNHCR is implementing activities related to the rule of law, resilience and livelihoods/durable solutions in the Darfur region. UNHCR also undertakes monitoring and assessments of IDPs and returnees in partnership with UNAMID within the scope of SLF.

4. DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- Voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugee from Chad started in April 2018 after the signing of aforementioned Tripartite Agreement between UNHCR, Sudan and Chad. Approximately 3,819 Sudanese refugees have returned to Darfur, with another 5,000 projected to return in 2019, although 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 3,819 Sudanese refugee returnees were assisted with return packages, cash based interventions, and transportation, and UNHCR has also initiated reintegration assistance to upgrade basic services in return areas.
- UNHCR is also a member of the Durable Solutions Working Group in Sudan, which includes both refugees and IDPs in Sudan.

5. MIXED MIGRATION

- Sudan is a source, transit and destination country for asylum-seekers, refugees and economic migrants along the East Africa Migratory Route into North Africa and Europe. Thus far in 2019, some 920 persons on average arrive in East Sudan every month. These new arrivals are assisted by the Commission for Refugees (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 onward.
- UNHCR is a co-chair of the Working Group on Migration and Trafficking, which focuses mostly on East Sudan and aims to improve coordination and collaboration to facilitate a comprehensive approach to preventing trafficking in persons, including the protection of victims and developing alternatives to unsafe and irregular migration.

6. COORDINATION

- 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 leads the coordination of the South Sudan Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 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 323.5m for 2019, and it includes the financial requirements for 28 partners across eight sectors (Protection, Education, ES/NFI, Food, Health and Nutrition, Livelihoods, Energy, and WASH). The Sudan part of the RRP has current funding gap exceeding 90 percent.
- 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 within the context of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Sudan. UNHCR coordinates closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Development for the Protection Sector, and with the Humanitarian Aid Commission (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 (RRR) Sector and the Durable Solutions Working Group.

7. WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works with its counterpart from the Government of Sudan (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 State authorities. UNHCR also works with more than 50 international and national NGO partners implementing activities across the country.

8. FUNDING

- Humanitarian funding remains a key challenge for UNHCR Sudan in terms of ensuring adequate support to PoCs. As of 06 August 2019, UNHCR Sudan received USD 50.3M (roughly 19 percent) out of the USD 268.7M required for the overall 2019 Sudan operational response.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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