

Sudan

As of 24 February 2020

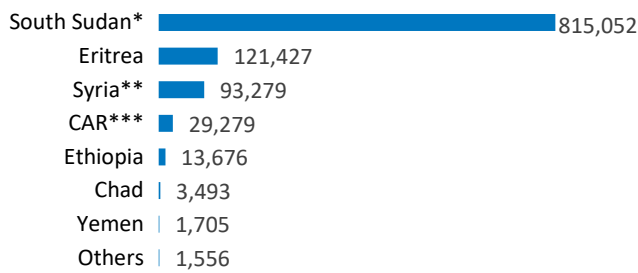
After the removal of long-time President Bashir in 2019, **Sudan is led by a transitional government** who is engaged in a **peace process** in an ongoing economic crisis affecting millions of Sudanese since 2017.

Nearly **2 million Sudanese live as internally displaced** in Sudan, that hosts about **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 the peace process and solutions for refugees, IDPs and returnees.

REFUGEES (AS OF 31 JANUARY 2020)

Countries of Origin



TOTAL: 1,079,467

* Total South Sudanese refugees registered by the Commission for Refugees/COR with UNHCR support, by Immigration Passport Police (IPP) registered and unregistered population. Government sources estimate a total of 1.3M South Sudanese refugees; however, these data require verification.

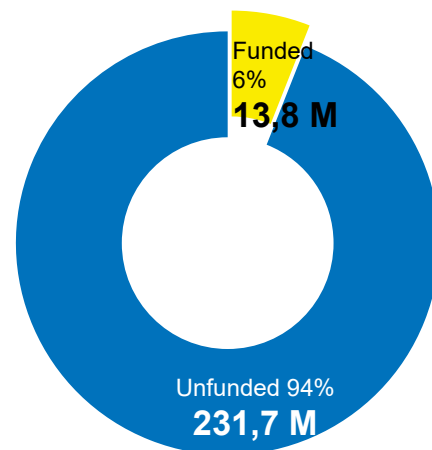
** includes both individuals registered by UNHCR and COR, and IPP statistics on annual arrivals and departures

***There are 3,314 new refugees who arrived from Central African Republic (CAR) to South Darfur in January 2020.

FUNDING (AS OF 11 FEBRUARY 2020)

USD 248.5 M

requested for the Sudan situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

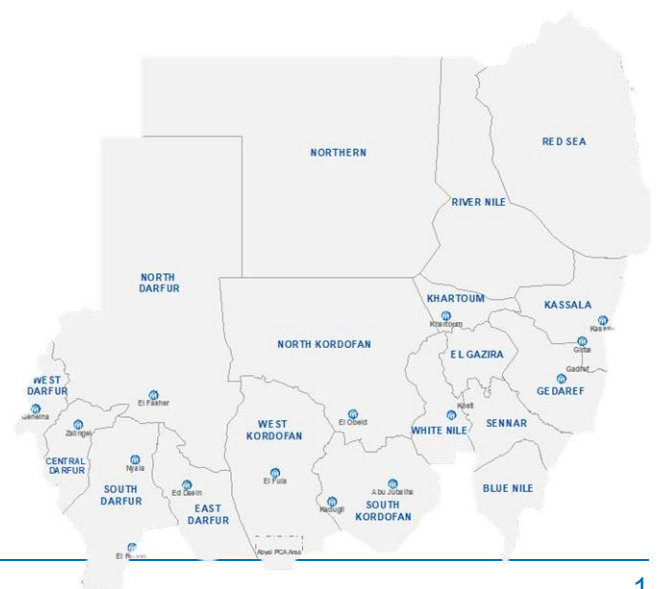
UNHCR's operation in Sudan started over 50 years ago, today UNHCR in Sudan provides protection and support to asylum-seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDP), returnees, as well as persons at risk of statelessness.

Workforce

- 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 31 January 2020, Sudan was hosting some 1 million refugees and asylum-seekers, and UNHCR works closely with its main 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. 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 (70 % of South Sudanese 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.
- Even though US economic sanctions on Sudan were lifted in October 2017, delisting Sudan from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list remains a major obstacle 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 December 2019, intercommunal clashes between Massalit and Arab tribes in **El Geneina, West Darfur**, displaced some 41,000 people, most of whom had already been displaced before and resided in IDP camps. Over 16,000 refugees spontaneously settled on the other side of the Chadian border around Adre. A new Kouchaguine-Moura camp has been established to relocate the new refugees.
- Mid-February 2020, fighting erupted between different clans of the Zaghawa tribe in Tina, Eastern Chad. Some **6,000 individuals have since arrived in Tina locality in North Darfur**, among them Sudanese who had been living as refugees in Chad, but also Chadians, as well as Sudanese citizens who are living in Chad. The situation remains tense and according to reports, fighting is still ongoing.
- 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. In January 2020, some additional 3,300 CAR refugees arrived in Darfur.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR implements the refugee coordination model in Sudan and co-leads the national inter-agency Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF) with COR, 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 CAR, Chad, Eritrea and Ethiopia and other countries of origin. With a budget requirement of some 477 M USD it targets over 900,000 refugees as well as nearly a quarter million Sudanese in host areas.
- 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 Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items (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. Moreover, UNHCR promotes protection mainstreaming across all sectors, in addition to working closely with the Return, Recovery, and Reintegration Sector. UNHCR is a 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 technically and logistically.

Main Refugee Groups and IDPs

South Sudanese Refugees

- South Sudanese refugees constitute the largest refugee population in Sudan, with over 815,000 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 have been living in Sudan for decades and continued to live in Sudan after the secession of South Sudan in 2011. The government recognized all South Sudanese as refugees on a group basis in September 2016. There are eleven camps in White Nile and East Darfur States, with the majority living out-of-camp in settlements and urban areas among host communities. As of 31 January 2020, Khartoum hosts close to 284,000 South Sudanese refugees, with an estimated 155,000 refugees living in nine sites called 'open areas' characterized with high needs and limited assistance.
- South Sudanese people continue to seek protection in Sudan. In 2019, more than 18,000 arrived, compared to a total of over 31,000 new arrivals in 2018. In January 2020 alone, 3,400 additional men, women and children arrived.

- UNHCR in South Sudan 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 will take time to be resolved, 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 in national systems, and investments in permanent or more durable infrastructure, greater self-reliance, effective community participation, and durable solution where necessary.

Eritrean and Ethiopian Refugees

- As of 31 January 2020, over 121,000 Eritreans and some 14,000 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.
- In 2019, more than 9,000 men, women and children arrived (mostly from Eritrea) in East Sudan.

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 have been ongoing since September 2019, and led to nearly 13,400 refugees from CAR fleeing to safety in South and Central Darfur States in West Sudan between September and December 2019. Overall, the total new arrivals to both States in 2019 were nearly 17,000 individuals, in January 2020, more than 3,300 new refugees from CAR arrived in South Darfur. The total CAR refugee population now stands at more than 29,000 persons.
- The situation along the CAR-Sudan border remains tense and volatile. A ceasefire brokered in December 2019 between the Kara and Ronga tribes ended on 15 January 2020. There have been reports of new clashes, which could force more refugees into Darfur. As a result, UNHCR has revised its 2020 planning figure for CAR refugee arrivals to 20,000 individuals by June. Overall, nearly 46,000 CAR refugees are anticipated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in South and Central Darfur by the end of 2020.

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, due to the security situation.
- Mid-February, some 6000 individuals arrived in Tina locality in North Darfur, including Chadians and Sudanese who had been living as refugees in Chad.

Syrian and Yemeni Refugees

- As of 31 January 2020, there are some estimated 94,000 Syrian refugees, mainly in Khartoum State and over 1,700 Yemeni refugees in Sudan. 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. Based 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 some 2 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. Recently, intercommunal clashes between Massalit and Arab tribes in El Geneina, West Darfur, displaced some 41,000 people, most of whom had already been displaced before and resided in 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.
- UNHCR promotes peaceful coexistence between communities in areas of IDP return, e.g. by building essential facilities (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 partnership with the authorities. Moreover, UNHCR also works with national and international partners, including NGOs and UN agencies, funds and programmes, to provide protection and assistance to IDPs and those affected by or at risk of statelessness. 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 technical and financial support by UNHCR. 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 of January 2020, it is estimated that over 353,000 refugee children are of school going age (6-17 years), which amounts to 33% of the total refugee population. 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. UNHCR works with government counterparts and other relevant partners to help asylum-seekers and refugees access quality education. Activities include school infrastructure maintenance and expansion, which also

includes public schools attended by refugees. Moreover, UNHCR supports refugees with their school contributions, exam fees and enrolment. With the limited funding available, UNHCR also pays teachers incentives, provides textbooks, teaching materials and school uniforms.

- 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 some 1,3 million Non-Food Items (NFIs) to people across Sudan, including refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities.
- The NFI basic kit consists of plastic sheets, blankets, sleeping kitchen set, and a 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, IDPs in Darfur and Kordofan and newly displaced people in Darfur. NFI distributions also generally support some 15 percent of the most vulnerable individuals of the host community.
- The NFI Core Pipeline, managed by UNHCR on behalf of the sector, procure and store NFIs in strategically located warehouses in Darfur, Khartoum and Kassala, which serve as hubs for further distribution.
- General distributions are conducted to newly displaced families, based on the Displaced Tracking Matrix provided by IOM or new (refugee) arrivals, 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 50% 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 asylum-seekers and 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.
- 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. Since April 2019, UNHCR temporarily stopped voluntary repatriation. 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. Land occupation and weak mechanisms

to address land disputes, have hampered the ability of some returnees to re-establish themselves in their villages of origin in Darfur.

UNHCR uses resettlement strategically as a durable solution and protection tool. Resettlement from Sudan was suspended from May 2018 to August 2019 for the implementation of integrity recommendations. In total, over 400 individuals departed for resettlement to Australia, Canada, Italy, France, and Sweden etc. in 2019.

Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2020

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 |

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 | Luxembourg | Malta | Poland | Private donors

Unearmarked contributions in 2019

Sweden | Private donors Spain | United Kingdom | Norway | Netherlands | Private donors Republic of Korea | Germany | Japan | Denmark | Private donors Japan | Private donors Italy | Switzerland | Private donors USA | France | Private donors Sweden | Ireland | Italy | Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Islamic Republic of Pakistan | Kuwait | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

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LINKS

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