



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



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Sudan: Urgent needs

Forced displacement and durable solutions in 2020



1.1 million
REFUGEES

1.8 million
INTERNALLY DISPLACED

Overview

Sudan faces one of the most complex and large-scale forced displacement crises in Africa, impacting almost 4 million displaced people including 1.1 million refugees hosted in Sudan, 1.8 million internal displaced people and some 700,000 Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries, awaiting their chance to return home.

A recent and historical political transition process in 2019 has provided a unique and valuable opportunity to advance durable solutions for millions of IDPs, refugees, and returnees.

Resolving displacement of Sudanese women, men and children is at the heart of the peace process and government priorities. Protection will have to be central to achieve solutions. UNHCR is therefore scaling-up its work, in line with current inter-agency efforts to implement comprehensive and integrated solutions for those affected by displacement, particularly for IDPs and Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries, while also ensuring a timely response to the critical needs of refugees in Sudan.

UNHCR's intervention is linked to the ongoing inter-agency efforts to support Sudan in its recovery and humanitarian challenges. In 2020, UNHCR will focus on providing the necessary protection and assistance to those affected by forced displacement—including new displacement—whilst expanding UNHCR's IDP programme and supporting solutions, including in the areas of return.

UNHCR will apply a “whole-of-society approach” in its refugee response, in line with the SDG goal of “nobody left behind”. While some refugees may be able to voluntarily return to their home countries in safety and dignity, it is important for refugees to find continued safety and economic independence alongside host communities in Sudan.

Timely support is vital

The transitional process, with the opening up to previously inaccessible areas, provides a unique opportunity to address the complex issue of displacement in Sudan. UNHCR’s protection-centred work in Sudan will also support ongoing peacebuilding process. Assistance will include the provision of emergency support and critical activities aimed at strengthening the Governments’ capacity to cope with forced displacement, while taking into account age, gender and diversity considerations. Community-based protection and UNHCR’s extensive field presence will ensure that assistance will support local structures sustainably. Cash-based interventions in Khartoum “Open Areas”—on the outskirts of the capital—will allow for displaced communities to cover the multiple needs they face and create job and livelihoods opportunities.

Funding in the first quarter of 2020 is therefore vital in order to seize the window of opportunity provided by new access to formerly inaccessible areas and build on the positive momentum to advance solutions for the displaced.

Early funding will support the following key areas of focus:

- Durable solutions for IDPs and voluntary repatriation for Sudanese refugees.
- Peacebuilding and community support projects particularly in Darfur with refugees and IDPs playing an active part in the peace and rehabilitation process.
- Emergency preparedness and response to new displacement situations, including assistance to refugees from the Central African Republic recently arrived in South and Central Darfur, and prepositioning NFIs.
- Protection coordination, delivery programmes and protection advocacy.

Key operational priorities

Protection will be key to achieving durable solutions in Sudan for IDPs, refugees and returnees. Legal frameworks for the voluntary return of Sudanese refugees from Chad are in place and UNHCR stands ready to step up its assistance as soon as the situation on the ground allows for voluntary returns in safety and dignity.

UNHCR’s key operational priorities in 2020 are as follows:

- Voluntary return and reintegration of IDPs and Sudanese refugees in safety and dignity, including protection and the provision of safe and dignified transport for refugee returnees, shelter and cash grants for IDP and refugee returnees.
- Peacebuilding and community projects with a focus on Darfur and other conflict-affected areas, including return areas.

- Refugee and IDP protection, with a focus on refugee registration, documentation, protection monitoring and interventions, child protection and sexual and gender-based violence, community-based protection, and scaling up sectoral and multipurpose cash-based interventions for refugees.
- 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. Therefore, UNHCR will continue to foster partnerships and coordination with authorities to address and prevent the protection risks of mixed movements.
- Transitioning from emergency response to longer-term interventions for refugees and host communities, including integration with national service systems in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees, and interim solutions for refugee populations in Khartoum “Open Areas”.
- Emergency response to new displacement and emergencies through enhanced protection capacity, pre-positioning of relief items, and the management of the common non-food items (NFIs) pipeline of the Humanitarian Country Team.

Coordination

UNHCR is an active contributor to the humanitarian response as reflected in the Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The overall humanitarian needs for Sudan (including UNHCR-led and coordinated Protection and NFIs/Emergency Shelter sectors for IDPs) are featured in the framework of the HRP, in which the wider humanitarian community is appealing for a total of \$1.4 billion.

The refugee response is co-led by UNHCR and the Commissioner of Refugees, in close coordination with other humanitarian and development partners—including national and international non-government organizations and UN agencies—under the Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF). The RCF is the main refugee coordination mechanism in Sudan, with more than 45 UN, international and national NGO partners, and government partners actively participating in the RCF. The RCF also seeks to engage development actors around ‘nexus-style’ interventions. The response is also supported by the UN Country Team and other humanitarian and development partners.

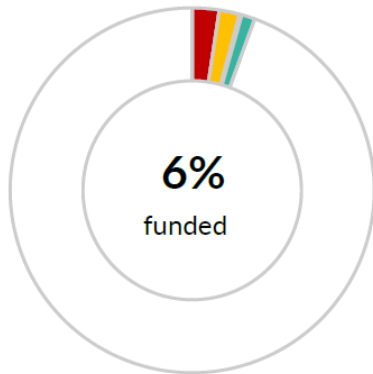
UNHCR has launched an inter-agency 2020 Sudan Country Refugee Response Plan (RRP). The plan outlines the detailed joint strategy of over 30 partners and the needs segregated by sector and actors working on the Sudan refugee response and highlights the main areas of intervention including the needs of refugees and host communities. The RRP is an integral part of the HRP.

The Global Compact on Refugees and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda will provide an important framework for collaboration with partners in the refugee response. UNHCR will broaden the scope of partnerships to mobilize resources and increase visibility for the needs of all the refugee populations in Sudan and their host communities maintaining the momentum of the first Global Refugee Forum.

Within the IDP response, UNHCR leads the Protection and NFI-Emergency Shelter Sector and co-chairs the Durable Solutions Working Group jointly with UNDP.

UNHCR also works closely with other line ministries, including the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Social Development and Labour, Education, Health and the Civil Registry, as well as with the Department of Water, Environment and Sanitation, the Directorate of Immigration and Passports Police, the Humanitarian Aid Commission and other authorities. UNHCR also collaborates with more than 50 international and national NGO partners implementing activities across the country.

Funding the response



UNHCR's financial requirements 2020

\$248.5 million

as of 11 February 2020

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

UNHCR is appealing for **early pledges** to support activities that will assist in maintaining minimum standards for large-scale humanitarian needs, responding with immediate lifesaving assistance, while strengthening engagement in the growing IDP response, as well as securing and enhancing opportunities for return.

Supporting solutions and ending displacement will be key during the time of transition in Sudan in order to support the peace agenda. This means ensuring that the urgent needs of people forced to flee, hosting as well as return communities are robustly addressed early in 2020.

The importance of flexible funding

Flexible financial support greatly facilitates UNHCR being able to kick-start an emergency response, bolster forgotten or under-resourced crises, and enable the fullest possible implementation of programmes. They enable UNHCR to plan and manage its resources efficiently and effectively, contributing to the collective success in every life that is transformed and saved.

UNHCR is grateful to the donors which have provided unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions. Additional financial and operational information is available on the Global Focus website (reporting.unhcr.org).

