

SUDAN EMERGENCY

CRITICAL LIFE-SAVING NEEDS

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

Introduction



8 million people displaced within Sudan

2.2 million refugees and returnees in neighboring countries



5 per cent of the Chadian population are refugees and asylum seekers – making Chad the leading asylum country in West and Central Africa

77 per cent of the 800,000 new arrivals to South Sudan are refugee returnees



58 per cent funding gap

With the end of the year approaching, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is once again sounding the alarm that our regional Sudan response is severely underfunded when needs continue to grow. Similarly to last year, we are reaching out to donors with a plea to identify and consider any additional funds that can be contributed to [UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal for the Sudan emergency](#), which remains dramatically underfunded at 42 per cent.

For nearly 18 months, UNHCR has been working with governments and humanitarian partners to quickly mount and sustain an emergency response to help those fleeing the horrors of war in Sudan – a purely man-made disaster that has put host countries in the region under immense pressure. Since the outset of the conflict, the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan have shouldered an enormous burden on behalf of the international community. As the conflict continued unabated, by the start of 2024 Libya and Uganda also began to witness significant numbers of new arrivals. Each of these countries is grappling with an ongoing influx of refugees and returnees fleeing the devastating conflict.

We cannot discount the generosity of host governments and host communities; it must be supported and not taken for granted.

With famine confirmed in parts of North Darfur in August, and with the conflict still showing no sign of abating, more and more people are being violently uprooted, inside Sudan and across the borders.

With the resources at hand, it is simply impossible to cover even the most basic needs – when, in fact, there is an urgency to prepare for and scale up operations to respond to new arrivals.

UNHCR and partners are facing a variety of challenges in countries of asylum, including the rainy season and associated flooding, ongoing difficulties relocating new arrivals away from border areas, insecurity in some refugee hosting areas, and shortages and delays in the provision of food assistance. With all the heroic efforts being made by front-line workers, very little is provided at the level required – from supply of clean water to targeted protection services for the most vulnerable.

Whilst prioritizing is extremely difficult in a context where most people we serve lack the very basics, we have nevertheless identified critical areas where additional resources could make a difference between life and death, and between despair and hope.

Within the overall needs of \$1.03 billion outlined in UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal revised in June, we are urgently seeking an immediate injection of \$52 million in flexible funding to sustain our response in the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda between now and the end of year. These resources will help prevent additional loss of lives, and support the safety and dignity of individuals who have already endured unimaginable trauma.

Situation update

Despite diplomatic efforts, fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has continued unabated since 15 April 2023, forcing 10.5 million people from their homes and generating a dire humanitarian crisis of epic proportions.

The conflict has involved extreme levels of violence and human rights violations against civilians, including sexual violence, torture, arbitrary killings, extortion of civilians and targeting of specific ethnic groups.

Inside Sudan, most humanitarian indicators are above and beyond emergency levels. Nearly half of Sudan's population (25 million people) are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection services, with millions of people one step away from potential famine.

A new wave of cholera in Sudan is spreading and threatening displaced communities in several states that host refugees from other countries and internally displaced Sudanese. The health system remains on its knees with up to 60 per cent of the population unable to access health services. In South Sudan and Chad, UNHCR has reported

a surge in malaria cases in refugee camps, exacerbated by the onset of the rainy season. This rise in malaria comes alongside alarming rates of malnutrition and an increase in cases of measles, acute respiratory infections, and acute watery diarrhoea, all heightening the risk of cholera outbreaks.

Initial nutrition screening conducted at entry points and transit centers for new arrivals from Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan has begun to reveal alarming levels of acute malnutrition. However, due to the vast and challenging nature of the border areas, our capacity to adequately screen all those crossing remains limited.

Some 2.2 million people have so far fled to neighboring countries and are now facing further anguish, uncertainty and insecurity due to the poorly funded humanitarian response. Two thirds of refugees are women and children.

Action must be taken by both humanitarian and development partners to support displaced and host communities and build community resilience to ensure that areas affected by conflict and fragility are not left behind.



Newly arrived Sudanese refugees at the Sudan-Chad border in Adre, Chad. The clock is ticking to move the 210,000 refugees living in Adre to safety in new settlements. © UNHCR/Ying Hu

Summary of most urgent needs within UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal

Central African Republic – \$3M

Construction of durable shelters in Korsi settlement

UNHCR and partners have constructed 526 emergency shelters so far in 2024 in Korsi settlement. Overall, since the arrival of refugees into the CAR, UNHCR and partners have repaired more than 750 emergency shelters damaged by the rains, flash floods and strong winds. The ongoing reliance on plastic sheeting and sticks to repair emergency shelters is both unsustainable and inadequate to meet the life-saving needs of refugee families. With the rainy season lasting at least 6 months every year, it is unacceptable that more than a year into this crisis, refugees are still living in emergency shelters. Additional funding is urgently needed to support 5,000 refugee and returnee families to construct 1,000 semi-durable shelters, ensuring they are adequately protected from the elements.

Cost: \$1,425,000

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

UNHCR and partners have constructed 112 emergency latrines and 123 emergency showers so far in 2024 in Korsi settlement, reducing the people-to-latrine ratio from over 100 to 64 by mid-September. To further improve the situation, operational partners have begun construction of 92 semi-durable latrines, in line with the strategy to move towards more sustainable construction. Nonetheless, even with the planned intervention, the ratio will still be at least 45 people per latrine – more than double the SPHERE standard of 20 people per latrine.

To meet this minimum standard and mitigate the spread of disease, an additional 408 latrines for both the refugee and host community are urgently needed. The settlement faces heightened health

risks, particularly with ongoing epidemics of Hepatitis in Vakaga prefecture and Mpox across the country. Immediate action is necessary to reduce the risk of illness and potential epidemics by addressing the insufficient sanitation infrastructure.

Cost: \$831,150

Cash for Protection (out of camp)

Around 15,000 Sudanese refugees are living outside Korsi settlement, integrating into local communities with the help of local authorities, UNHCR, and partners. Though protection monitoring, social cohesion activities, and WFP food assistance are ongoing in a few places, access to basic services such as health, shelter, WASH, and social protection remains extremely limited due to weak national services.

This limited access disproportionately affect vulnerable populations including persons with specific needs, particularly pregnant, and lactating women, children at risk, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and those with chronic illnesses. These challenges exacerbate risks like child labor and risk of recruitment by armed groups and heightened exposure to gender-based violence, including sexual violence, for women seeking to support themselves and their families.

With increasing humanitarian needs driven by conflict, displacement, and climate shock, there is an urgent need for life-saving interventions to prevent irreversible harm and protect the dignity of those living outside formal camps. Funds are therefore urgently needed to support 5,902 households at risk.

Cost: \$755,456

Chad – \$17.7M

Relocation from the border and construction of emergency shelters

Chad hosts the largest number of people having fled violence in Sudan since April 2023, including around 643,500 refugees in the east of the country. While this number is increasing daily, UNHCR and partners have been working tirelessly to support the Government's efforts and coordinate the emergency response. Since April 2023, over 372,600 refugees have been relocated to six newly built settlements and ten extensions of pre-existing settlements, all completed in record time. However, many still live in spontaneous sites along the border, particularly around Adre, where nearly 200,000 refugees are in dire conditions. The situation is expected to worsen as the conflict in Sudan intensifies. Authorities have requested UNHCR assistance in relocating refugees to safer, formal settlements away from the border.

To meet this need, urgent funding is required before the end of the year to relocate at least 40,000 Sudanese refugees from the border and construct 10,000 emergency family shelters.

Cost: \$7,000,000

Provision of essential services

All extensions and new refugee settlements were equipped with basic services and infrastructure, including family shelters, health centres, boreholes, sanitation and education facilities. However, significant gaps remain, amid an ongoing hepatitis E outbreak in eastern Chad (declared in March 2024) and acute malnutrition rates exceeding 10 per cent. The healthcare system is severely under-resourced, with only one doctor for every 24,000 patients—far surpassing the emergency standard of one doctor per 10,000 people. Access to water is

also inadequate, averaging just 8 liters per person per day, well below the emergency requirement of 15 liters. Effective management of water and sanitation is critical, especially during the rainy season, which heightens the risk of exposure to harsh weather and waterborne diseases.

Education remains a top priority for families arriving from Sudan, 96 percent of whom have school-aged children—children make up 65 percent of all arrivals in Chad. Strengthening and building schools is essential to ensure that as many children as possible can return to and remain in school.

Cost: \$6,200,000

Protection and well-being

UNHCR protection and border monitoring teams report a high level of protection risks during flight, including rape, extortion, forced recruitment of men, and family separation, with 40 per cent of interviewed refugees reporting human rights abuses. Women and children, who make up 89 per cent of new arrivals, are the most vulnerable categories and require targeted protection services. UNHCR will provide protection services to 40,000 Sudanese refugees, including registration, documentation, legal assistance, specialized services for children, gender-based violence prevention and response, provision of information, and support towards peaceful coexistence. With protection case managers currently handling an average of 80 cases each (four times the recommended standard), immediate support is required to ensure refugees' safety, healing, and empowerment.

Cost: \$4,500,000

Egypt – \$7.2M

Primary and Secondary Health Care

As medical needs continue to rise among new arrivals from Sudan, public health services are overwhelmed, and many individuals face high out-of-pocket costs. Underfunding means UNHCR will not be able to support some 16,100 refugee patients, including those chronic diseases who depend on monthly medications. Without this support, many lives are at risk.

Cost: \$2,900,000

Education

Currently, around 54 per cent of all school-aged arriving from Sudan are out of school. Education grants are critical to help integrate 73,000 children into the education system in 2024. With the current levels of funding, the operation will be

able to support only 19,000 school-aged refugee children, leaving 54,000 students without the assistance they need. This may lead to an increase in child labour rates and other negative coping mechanisms.

Cost: \$1,500,000

Cash-based interventions

The growing refugee population in Egypt, combined with the challenging socio-economic environment, has drastically increased the need for assistance to meet basic needs. Without additional funding, 72,000 refugees will be left without support, heightening their risk of exposure to harsh weather, inadequate housing, and homelessness.

Cost: \$2,800,000

Ethiopia – \$3.5M

Protection services

UNHCR aims to provide documentation to the near 50,000 new refugee arrivals and conduct biometric registration, in addition to enhancing community-based systems, improve feedback mechanisms, and support mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) through community engagement. Strengthening responses to GBV is critical, including through inter-agency coordination, provision of dignity kits, cash assistance, and improved safe spaces.

Cost: \$1,400,000

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

There is an urgent need for sufficient latrines and clean water to prevent the spread of disease in overcrowded settlements. Current infrastructure at the Kurmuk and Metema entry points is inadequate to meet rising demand, with insufficient latrines and clean water access posing serious health risks.

Water trucking is costly and logistically challenging due to a lack of nearby sources. UNHCR seeks donor support to improve WASH facilities in Aftit (Amhara region) and Ura (Benishangul-Gumuz region) settlements, which will also augment efforts to reduce the time refugees stay at the transit centres. UNHCR is also planning to drill shallow boreholes at the transit centres to decrease reliance on water trucking.

Cost: \$1,000,000

Critical health support

Scaled-up medical care and referrals, including vaccinations and disease prevention, is essential. The refugee population faces risks of outbreaks and worsening chronic health issues, requiring immediate support.

Cost: \$400,000

Shelter

The potential expansion of Ura settlement requires rapid provision of temporary shelters, alongside longer-term plans for more permanent housing to ensure the dignity and safety of displaced individuals.

Cost: \$300,000

Education

There is an urgent need to address educational requirements for 10,000 refugee children in the new settlements. Interventions include building classrooms, training teachers in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and GBV, providing educational materials, and offering language classes.

Cost: \$400,000

Libya – \$3.3M

Critical health support

Underfunding will severely limit our ability to provide essential health services to Sudanese refugees and host communities, leading to increased morbidity and mortality rates. Without adequate funding, critical interventions such as medical supplies, vaccinations, maternal and child health services, and treatment for communicable diseases will be drastically reduced. This shortage will exacerbate existing health challenges, potentially leading to outbreaks of preventable diseases and worsening overall public health conditions. Moreover, the inability to support health facilities adequately will strain the local healthcare infrastructure, diminishing both the quality and accessibility of care for all populations involved.

Approximately 35,000 individuals, including 20,000 Sudanese refugees and 15,000 members of the host community, will be directly impacted. This includes vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, the elderly, and individuals with chronic health conditions.

Cost: \$1,200,000

Protection services

Sudanese refugees including recent arrivals are registered by the local authorities and provided with documentation. Those with heightened risk and vulnerability also receive cash support. All GBV survivors have timely, safe and adequate access to

quality response services, with primary prevention services targeting women, men, boys and girls.

Local authorities and ministries in the east are implementing a registration system and documentation to facilitate access to services and freedom of movement, in accordance with the Ministry of Interior's decision. So far, authorities have registered and issued 30,000 cards, but their resources have quickly depleted and they are running out of resources to continue registration. UNHCR has been requested to support this initiative, as resource shortages risk preventing further registration, exposing refugees to potential deportation and increased GBV risks. Approximately 40,000 vulnerable individuals will be directly impacted, including women, children, and other vulnerable groups among the Sudanese refugee population.

Cost: \$1,200,000

Shelter and core relief items (CRIs)

Overcrowded and inadequate shelters heighten the risk of disease transmission and compromise the safety and dignity of refugees, with current shelter solutions falling below minimum humanitarian standards. In-kind support will be provided to Sudanese refugees with heightened risk and vulnerability.

Cost: \$948,000

South Sudan – \$8.7M

Well-being and basic needs

As of September 2024, almost 800,000 new arrivals have sought asylum and assistance in South Sudan – a country already home to approximately 489,000 refugees and 5,250 asylum-seekers. Most arrivals (77 per cent) are South Sudanese nationals returning home, while the remainder are Sudanese refugees. Many new arrivals are vulnerable, lacking personal belongings and requiring immediate life-saving interventions. Urgent support is needed to ensure an effective and rapid UNHCR protection response through the delivery of life-saving core relief items, shelter assistance and multi-purpose cash.

With historic floods already underway in South Sudan, prepositioning additional core relief items as a preparedness measure is crucial for ensuring a rapid response when the flooding intensifies.

The individuals and families who are targeted to receive this assistance are among the most vulnerable within an already at-risk population. Without this life-saving support, they could face severe protection risks, including malnutrition and heightened exposure to health and safety hazards.

Cost: \$3,000,000

Shelter and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

UNHCR, together with the Government of South Sudan and IOM, are monitoring arrivals at 27 border points. To support these efforts, UNHCR has established and is managing 12 transit and reception centers across the country, providing new arrivals with access to essential services such as basic healthcare, protection, food, and shelter. These centers serve as critical hubs where refugees can receive immediate assistance before

being transported onward to more permanent locations.

Investments are urgently needed to maintain the capacity and living conditions at Renk Transit Centre in Upper Nile, which currently hosts nearly 8,000 people—far exceeding its 2,700-person capacity. The center provides critical services such as sanitation, water, protection, and healthcare. New refugee arrivals are relocated to camps in Jamjang, Maban, and other areas, while returnees are transported towards the destinations of choice.

In Maban, reception infrastructure, essential service delivery and humanitarian assistance need to be urgently scaled up in existing refugee camps to accommodate those relocated from Renk. Replacing emergency shelters with semi-permanent shelters for refugees is crucial for enhanced safety and well-being, improved living conditions, environmental benefits, community involvement and skills development, and community-based protection and ownership.

In Aweil, 13,000 new arrivals need additional communal toilets for dignified living, while in Malakal, funding is needed to upgrade Bulukat Transit Centre's shelters to protect refugees and returnees.

These improvements will reduce overcrowding, protection risks, and poor hygiene, especially for women and girls. Without further funding, services cannot be extended to the growing number of arrivals, increasing the risk of disease, insecurity, and tensions between new arrivals, long-term residents, and local communities.

Cost: \$3,700,000

Shelter

UNHCR continues to implement a comprehensive public health programme across refugee camps, entry points and host communities in South Sudan, ensuring access to essential primary healthcare. These efforts focus on addressing key social and environmental factors through healthcare access, education, and health campaigns.

UNHCR, through its partnerships, supports 17 health facilities in refugee-hosting areas, including Maban, Jamjang, Makpandu, and Gorom, alongside emergency health programmes in Aweil and Renk. Mobile healthcare clinics set up at reception and transit centres provide critical interventions, preventing disease outbreaks. UNHCR has bolstered healthcare infrastructure, workforce capacity, and mental health and psychosocial

support services for both refugees and host communities.

As South Sudan prepares for the 2025 Health Sector Transformation Project (HSTP), which will expand access to a basic package of health and nutrition services, UNHCR will need to continue providing support to bridge the current gaps. Without this support, the already precarious health and nutrition situation, especially for new arrivals, will worsen, exacerbated by staffing shortages, funding constraints, and inefficiencies in supply chains. Sustained partnerships and proactive planning are vital to maintain these health services and avoid disruptions that could impact patient care.

Cost: \$2,000,000



IDPs arriving at a gathering site near Kassala, Sudan, shelter their children under a UNHCR mat. So far, 400 UNHCR tents have been erected at the site, which is expected to host some 800 families newly displaced by severe flooding in the region, as the rainy season sets in. © UNHCR/Aymen Alfadil

Sudan – \$5.2M

Health

Following the higher than usual rainfall in 2024, the incidence of water-borne and other communicable diseases has risen sharply. In August, a cholera outbreak was declared and, by mid-September, over 8,500 cholera cases and almost 300 associated deaths were reported in eight states. Among these, around 340 cholera cases were identified in four refugee camps in the Kassala State. Additionally, more than 2,000 cases of conjunctivitis have been recorded, primarily in the Darfur region. To contain these outbreaks, urgent action is needed to enhance infection prevention and control in refugee camps. This includes setting up and maintaining isolation facilities, providing critical medicines and vaccines, strengthening active case surveillance and ensuring cold chain equipment.

Cost: \$1,000,000

Registration and Documentation

Proper registration and documentation provide refugees and asylum-seekers with legal identity and facilitate freedom of movement, enabling access to basic protection services and assistance. This includes the ability to register civil events such as births, marriages and deaths and protection from arrest, detention and the risk of summary expulsion.

Cost: \$1,000,000

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Sudan's refugee camps continue to receive an influx of new refugees and asylum-seekers, both from neighbouring countries and from within Sudan, where many have been as displaced multiple times.

This growing population is straining already limited resources, particularly water supply and sanitation facilities. Poor WASH conditions and risky hygienic practices have contributed to the recent cholera outbreak in areas hosting refugees. To address these challenges, there is an urgent need to maintain, construct, expand and rehabilitate water and sanitation infrastructure in camps. This includes providing essential hygiene items and promoting safe hygiene practices through hygiene promotion activities.

Cost: \$1,200,000

Shelter

Internal displacement, along with the secondary displacement of refugees and asylum-seekers, continues, compounded by new arrivals from neighbouring countries, has created a large need for shelter. Over 63 per cent of IDP households cite inadequate shelter as a major concern. An increasing number of IDPs are living in informal gathering sites, with sub-standard living and shelter conditions. Similarly, refugees, especially new arrivals and those displaced multiple times, often live in overcrowded and inadequate shelters that lack privacy and protection from the elements, increasing their vulnerability to protection and health risks. There is a need to improve and expand gathering sites for IDPs as the hosting capacity has diminished considerably over the past 18 months. Addressing these gaps requires enhanced shelter and infrastructure support to IDPs, hosting communities and refugees in their place of displacement.

Cost: \$2,000,000

Uganda – \$3.5M

Provision of CBI, CRIs and emergency shelter kits for new arrivals

UNHCR provides immediate assistance to refugees through mobile money cash transfers, core relief items (like blankets, sleeping mats, buckets, jerricans), along with emergency shelter kits (containing plastic sheeting, wooden poles, rope, and nails). This life-saving assistance helps to meet refugees' basic needs upon arrival while preserving their dignity. Post-distribution monitoring indicates that refugees mainly use the cash component to purchase durable shelter items (85 per cent), basic household items (83 per cent) and food (82 per cent). Uganda is expecting some 20,000 new arrivals by year-end.

Without these life-saving items, refugees would struggle to collect water, cook food items or protect their families from the cold.

Cost: \$1,000,000

Reception of new arrivals and relocation to refugee settlements

With the continuous influx of Sudanese refugees, Uganda's reception centres in Nyumanzi and Kiryandongo are severely over capacity. In April 2024, Kiryandongo reception centre held 5,762 individuals – over 1,000 per cent of its intended capacity of 520. Urgent investments are necessary to expand these centres and ensure safe and dignified reception conditions for new arrivals. Additional support is needed to expedite relocation to the settlements and allocation of plots to reduce the overcrowding of reception centres.

When reception centres – intended as a first safe haven for desperate people fleeing for their lives – become overcrowded, refugees are forced to live outdoors in unsanitary conditions. This dramatically increases the risk of disease and poses grave dangers to vulnerable populations, particularly women and children.

Cost \$1,500,000

Provision of basic services for new refugees in the settlements

Sudanese account for the largest number of new arrivals in Uganda in 2024, leading to a dramatic increase in protection needs and is putting immense pressure on services in Kiryandongo settlement. For example, the supply of clean water dropped from 17 liters per person per day in January 2024, to under 10 liters per person per day by August. Education, healthcare and other services are similarly overstretched, as the settlement's infrastructure was not designed to accommodate such high numbers. UNHCR is working with partners to address these critical gaps but significant investments are needed to upgrade infrastructure and sustainably manage the influx. Without additional support, access to basic services for Sudanese refugees arriving in Kiryandongo settlement will be severely limited, heightening risks to refugees' well-being and increasing tensions between new arrivals, long-term refugees, and host communities. Such tensions could escalate into violence, jeopardizing Uganda's reputation as Africa's largest and most progressive refugee host.

Cost: \$1,000,000

FLEXIBLE FUNDING

FLEXIBLE FUNDS HELP UNHCR TO KICK-START AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE, BOLSTER FORGOTTEN OR UNDER-RESOURCED CRISES, AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMMES TO THEIR FULL EXTENT. THEY ALSO ENABLE UNHCR TO PLAN AND MANAGE RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY, CONTRIBUTING TO THE COLLECTIVE SUCCESS IN EVERY LIFE THAT IS TRANSFORMED AND SAVED. FLEXIBLE FUNDING WILL REMAIN VITAL AS THE SITUATION AND THE RESPONSE CONTINUE TO EVOLVE.