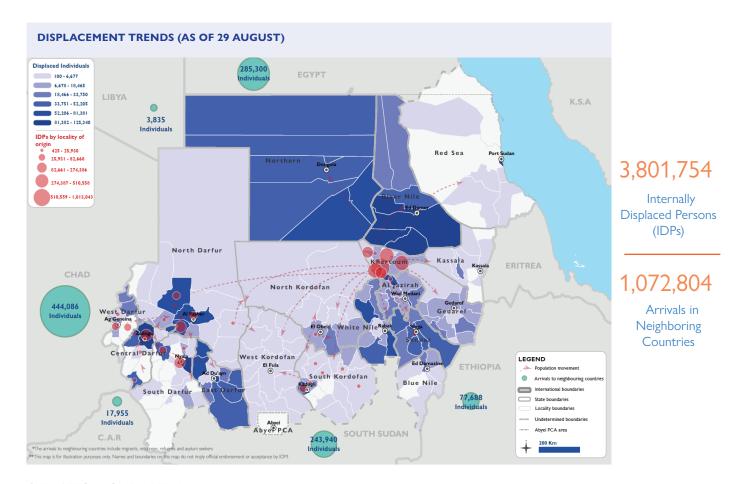


REGIONAL SUDAN RESPONSE SITUATION UPDATE 29 AUGUST 2023

IOM calls on all parties to ensure the safety of humanitarians and allow their unrestricted access to be able to assist those most vulnerable. <u>IOM's Response Overview</u> for the Sudan Crisis and Neighboring Countries contributes to addressing the humanitarian needs inside Sudan and the complexities of a mixed movements response that is inclusive of the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrant returnees, third country nationals (TCNs), host communities, refugees and Government entities responding to the crisis. IOM's planned response was coordinated with Governments and humanitarian partners.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

The situation in Sudan continues to remain tense with fighting reported between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) across various states. Khartoum remains the site of intensifying violence, with heavy clashes being reported in the proximity of the Armoured Corps military base in Al Shajara area. Fighting in the capital was also reported in Bahri and Omdurman.

Elsewhere across the country, clashes were reported in both El Obeid and in Um Rawaba locality, North Kordofan. In South Kordofan, fighting between the SAF and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement North/Al Hilu (SPLM/N-AH) was reported in and around Kadugli. In Blue Nile, the governor announced the renewal of the ongoing state of emergency for another month, as part of efforts to restore peace and security amid rising tensions in the state. In Darfur, sporadic fighting between SAF and RSF was reported on 20 August in Zalingei, Central Darfur, while reports suggest an improved security situation in Tawila, Martal, Tabit and Fanga towns in North Darfur. However, statements of support for either the RSF or the SAF continue to proliferate media channels, with the most recent statement being from one of the Amirs of the Falata community in the Blue Nile region, announcing support for the RSF. Other groups, particularly Arab leaders, have denounced the statement of the Sultan of Dar Masalit to join the conflict, and have expressed their intention to fight back while reiterating their neutrality in the ongoing conflict. Meanwhile, Sudanese authorities responded critically to the statement of US Ambassador John Godfrey and asked for the retraction of the statement.

National, regional, and international stakeholders continue to urge SAF and RSF leaders to end the fighting and find a political solution to the conflict. The acting leader of the National Umma Party, Fadl Allah Burma Nasir, called on the warring parties to end the fighting noting the devastating impact of the war on infrastructure and the country's social fabric – and humanitarian and economic burden on the Sudanese people. Deputy Chairman of the Transitional Sovereign Council Malik Agar, met with representatives of diplomatic missions and UN agencies, stating that solutions to end the conflict coming from external stakeholders would not succeed and that the only way to resolve the conflict would be a Sudanese-Sudanese dialogue. He called on UN agencies to provide support based on humanitarian needs and promised to remove all obstacles to relief operations.

Last week also saw the SAF posting videos on social media that showed SAF Commander Lt.-Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan inspecting army posts and addressing soldiers in the Wadi Sayedna military area, north Omdurman. In his first visit outside of Armed Forces HQ in Khartoum, Lt-Gen. Burhan travelled to Atbara (River Nile State) last Friday and arrived on Sunday in Port Sudan where he met with Deputy Chairman of the Transitional Sovereign Council Malik Agar. The SAF leader is also expected to start a regional tour of the neighboring countries, with his first stop being Egypt on 29 August. Speculation on social media points to SAF's possible re-engagement in the Jeddah negotiations and the formation of an emergency government to be based in Port Sudan. Meanwhile, RSF leader Lt.-Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo confirmed his openness to a long-term ceasefire and presented its vision for a "Sudan Reborn" – an initiative which aims to revive negotiation efforts and identify a political solution.

At the regional level, the meeting set to be co-chaired by the Africa Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Addis Ababa with the aim of bringing together Sudanese civilian actors, was postponed for the second time to a later date at the end of September. Additionally in Cairo, representatives of Sudan, Ethiopia and Egypt have reportedly started a new round of talks to resolve the dispute over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam – however, the two-days meeting reportedly ended without a breakthrough or change in position. The U.S. Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Mike Hammer, will travel to Nairobi between 28 August and 8 September to meet with Kenyan officials, the AU and IGAD to discuss the on-going crisis in Sudan and regional and international efforts to end the crisis, establish democratic governance and support justice and accountability.

DTM Sudan estimates that 3,801,754 individuals (759,651 households) have been recently internally displaced. The IDP caseload has been observed in all of Sudan's in 3,428 locations across all of Sudan's 18 states. The highest proportions of IDPs have been observed in River Nile (13.47%), East Darfur (10.39%), Northern (9.58%), South Darfur (8.42%), Sennar (7.67%), and White Nile (7.49%). Field teams report that the IDPs observed were originally displaced from eight states, the majority (2,766,600 IDPs, 72.77%) have been reportedly displaced from Khartoum state; followed by North Darfur (7.63%), South Darfur (9.39%), West Darfur (3.52%), Central Darfur (4.93%), North Kordofan (0.45%), South Kordofan (1.30%), and Aj Jazirah (0.01%). DTM Sudan also estimates that approximately 2.84% of the IDP caseload are non-Sudanese nationals.

In addition to the internal displacement, the conflict in Sudan has caused the mixed cross-border movements of 1,072,804 individuals into neighbouring countries – with 444,086 new arrivals recorded in Chad, 285,300 recorded in Egypt, 243,940 in South Sudan, 77,688 in Ethiopia, 17,955 in the Central African Republic and 3,835 in Libya. 67% of arrivals tracked in those countries were Sudanese nationals and 33% estimated foreign nationals and returnees. The majority of arrivals were reported in Chad (41.4%), Egypt (26.6%), and South Sudan (22.7%).

The scale of displacement and mixed cross-border movements have also been referenced in the statement by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths warning of record levels of hunger, disease and displacement. The longer-term impacts of the war are just as grim, most likely leading to a lost generation of children and youth set to endure trauma, bear the physical and psychological scars of war, forced to join the conflict and unable to attend school. The health situation continues to be dire, with Médecins Sans Frontiéres (MSF) releasing a statement speaking to the catastrophic impact of the conflict on health care facilities and civilians in South Darfur – little to no options for medical care remain in the state with only one functional hospital controlled by armed groups. Emerging reports from Eastern Sudan also speak to the concerning conditions in gathering sites, with severe food shortages and lack of health services.

Additionally at the global level, the United States in its statement condemned reports of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and called for accountability of the perpetrators of such atrocities. Increasing reports of sexual violence were also referenced in OCHA's statement on 21 August, for additional funding for life-saving assistance, intensified efforts to secure a political solution to the conflict, and improved access for humanitarian organizations in Sudan to deliver to the 18 million people in need.



RESPONSE OVERVIEW

SUDAN



24.060 individuals reached with medical and MHPSS support

6.019 individuals supported with protection assistance

31,259 migrants and IDPs provided with hygiene kits

This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and Boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

As of 29 August, 12 containers containing relief items (including hygiene kits and medical items) for distribution through the pipeline mechanism were cleared by the Sudan customs authority and delivered to IOM warehouses in Port Sudan. In addition to the 7 Rapid Response Fund sub-grants recently completed in the states of the Red Sea, Gedaref, White Nile, and South Darfur, 13 are underway in the states of the Red Sea, Kassala, Khartoum, Al Jazirah, White Nile, South Kordofan, North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur. The activities covered by the sub-grants include WASH support, health and protection assistance, NFI distributions, and cash-based interventions. As such, they serve to localize and tailor IOM's response per the needs of affected populations.

Since the beginning of the conflict, IOM has provided medical assistance as well as MHPSS support to 24,060 individuals. This assistance was delivered through the Organization's 4 health facilities (Northern and Blue Nile states, and Abyei), as well as its mobile outreach to hard-to-reach communities and its Migrant Resource and Response Centers (MRRCs) located in Gedaref and Kassala. In addition, MRRCs have provided protection assistance to a total of 6,019 individuals so far, through awareness-raising sessions on safe migration, gender-based violence, psychological first aid (PFA), counter-trafficking, art therapy, and psychoeducation.

As part of its multisectoral response to the ongoing crisis, IOM distributed NFI kits in the Blue Nile, Gedaref, North Darfur, North and South Kordofan states, and hygiene kits in the Red Sea, Northern and South Kordofan states, benefitting 15,265 and 31,259 migrants and IDPs respectively. 1,250 households in the Red Sea state also received multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help them meet their basic needs.

Since the outbreak of the conflict on 15 April, 50 stranded migrants have received voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) assistance to their country of origin, while 48 migrants received consular (pre-departure) assistance. In partnership with Sudanese Organization for Development (SOD), IOM has also provided legal assistance to 44 migrants, of which approximately half were women in vulnerable situations in Kassala, Gedaref and Port Sudan states. Most recently, IOM also successfully provided resettlement assistance to 27 refugees leaving Port Sudan for Canada via Jeddah and Cairo; their arrival to the destination country has since been confirmed by

SOUTH SUDAN

3,950 individuals reached through PSEA awareness sessions

2,550 individuals provided WASH NFIs WASH NFIs

718 households provided NFIs

As of 27 August, 243,940 individuals have been recorded as arriving in South Sudan from Sudan (17,149 Sudanese, and 226,791 non-Sudanese). Wunthow/Juda, near Renk, Upper Nile State, continues to be the point of entry for most new arrivals to South Sudan. Returnee arrivals continue to report OTA, Food, Shelter/NFIs, WASH and health as their key needs.

During the past week protection staff identified a total of 4,426 individuals in households with one or more vulnerable household members. In Abyei, IOM protection teams distributed 60 menstrual hygiene management kits to refugee women. Committed to

mainstreaming PSEA principles throughout its response, IOM's protection teams conducted awareness sessions on PSEA, safe reporting mechanisms, and available services, reaching 3,950 individuals in Malakal.

IOM continues to scale up its health assistance to affected populations. IOM's MHPSS team provided support to 3,528 vulnerable persons, of which 156 were persons with disabilities at various border crossing points or onward transportation reception points. MHPSS teams referred individuals seeking/requiring additional support, such as health, nutrition protection and shelter/NFI services, including 111 individuals in Abyei, and 25 individuals in Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal. In Malakal, MHPSS teams provided referrals for an additional 237 individuals. Separately, IOM conducted 3,349 medical consultations in Renk, 48 such consultations in Wau, as well as provided health services 119 new arrivals in Abyei.

IOM's WASH teams continue to provide access to safe drinking water for those impacted by the crisis. In Renk, Upper Nile State, IOM's water trucking activities provided 755 m3 of water to the Renk Transit Centre. In Unity State, IOM distributed 718 WASH NFI kits to 2,550 Individuals.

As S/NFI cluster lead in Abyei, IOM provided onward transport assistance to 17 returnees to travel from Abyei to Wau. Most recently, IOM distributed NFIs to 718 vulnerable households in Unity State.



Displaced mother receives hygiene kit in Gedaref.

CHAD

3.859 individuals relocated to **Ouddaï**

30 emergency latrines constructed

85 returnee households benefitted from tarp distributions

As of 26 August, 444,086 individuals, of which 382,320 are Sudanese and 61,766 are non-Sudanese, have been observed crossing the border from Sudan into Chad as a result of the ongoing crisis in Sudan.

IOM's key activities in the reporting period relate to the relocation of vulnerable individuals to the new site in Tongori in the Ouddaï province. As of 25 August, an estimated 3,859 individuals (620 households) were relocated to Ouddaï, with 150 households in the pipeline for relocation. IOM continues to provide assistance at the site in Tongori, including the installation of 30 emergency latrines, and the distribution of 300 mosquito nets and soap for pregnant and lactating women, implemented in coordination with a local NGO. In Maidguilte, Ouddaï province, IOM completed distribution of tarps to 85 returnee households on 26 August. As the next step, IOM has planned the construction of another 1,000 transitional shelters in Tongori, 1,000 tarps in Deguessa, Sila province.

Committed to mainstreaming PSEA and protection principles across its responses, IOM most recently conducted a training on GBV and PSEA in Ouddai for 30 CRT enumerators and 15 IOM staff.

ETHIOPIA

20 individuals supported with medical screenings

19 individuals supported with psychological first aid (PFA)

19 migrants reached with health education sessions

The latest update on arrival figures dates to 27 August and records 77,688 individuals (26,156 Sudanese and 51,532 non-Sudanese) as having crossed the border from Sudan into Ethiopia.

During the reporting period, IOM continued to provide multisectoral support to Sudanese nationals and Ethiopian returnees at the Kurmuk point of entry (PoE). Under its WASH support, IOM tracked and monitored drinking water at the PoE to ensure safe and adequate water supply to affected populations.

As part of its heath response, IOM's MHPSS teams provided 3,246 Ethiopian returnees with MHPSS support, conducted medical screening for 20 individuals, and provided PFA to 19 individuals to address immediate psychosocial needs. IOM also conducted health education sessions with the intention of raising awareness for and promoting mental health and well-being, reaching a total of 19 migrants. Separately, IOM screened 276 Ethiopian returnees for malnutrition, and provided 410 Ethiopian returnee migrants with medical consultations. IOM also provided 1,157 refugees and 110 TCNs with medical screenings.

As next steps, IOM's DTM continues to conduct flow monitoring activities in Kurmuk to collate information on the movement and

EGYPT

30.167 total number of people reached

3.683 individuals reached with direct assistance

313 individuals reached through health awareness raising sessions

The latest update on arrival figures from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs dates to 02 August – with 285,300 people (272,000 Sudanese, 13,300 Egyptian returnees) recorded as having crossed into Egypt from Sudan.

To date, IOM has reached approximately 30,167 people with direct assistance, VHR assistance, distribution of non-food items, and other assistance. As of 27 August, 32,517 individuals have been pre-registered, and 14,925 individuals have been registered for direct assistance. Out of those, 3,683 individuals have received assistance in the form of cash assistance, food vouchers, housing allowance, and medical assistance.

During the reporting period, IOM's health teams held 4 awareness raising sessions for 313 arrivals from Sudan, as well as a workshop for 29 community health volunteers in Aswan on health, MHPSS, and first aid. IOM's health teams also visited Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) facilities in Aswan to assess needs. As the next step, IOM is exploring options to provide equipment to the facilities in line with needs identified.

To strengthen capacities on integrated border management, IOM conducted a training on international migration law, countertrafficking and counter-smuggling of migrants, as well as border management for 26 Customs Authority officers from Argeen and Qustul border control posts.

LIBYA

As of 27 August, DTM Libya observed 3,835 arrivals (3,258 in Al Kufra, 500 in Om El Araneb, and 77 in Algatroun) of Sudanese migrants and TCNs. This includes 2,866 Sudanese migrants, 1,569 of which arrived indirectly from Chad (992 in Al Kufra, 77 in Algatroun, and 500 in Om El Araneb), and 1,297 of which arrived from Sudan directly via Northern State and North Darfur. Additionally, DTM also recorded the arrival of 600 Libyan returnees and 369 TCNs (294 Chadians, 31 Ethiopians, 16 Somalis, 9 Nigerians, 9 Eritreans, 6 Egyptians, 3 Nigerien, and 1 Burkinabe) from Sudan.

Key challenges include access to affected populations, particularly in southern Libya. As such, IOM, in coordination with other UN agencies, is advocating at the UN level for improved access to ensure delivery of assistance to vulnerable groups.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

As of 21 August, a total of 17,955 individuals have arrived in CAR, mostly in the Am Dafock PoE from Sudan since the beginning of the crisis in Sudan. This includes 13,254 Sudanese asylum seekers, and 4,701 returnees. Of the 17,955 recorded arrivals in the country, 1,645 were relocated from Am Dafock to Birao by UNHCR and the local government. As such, the government has instructed partners to concentrate on the response and humanitarian efforts in Birao, where IOM has now also increased its presence.

As part of the humanitarian efforts to respond to increasing needs in Birao, IOM's protection team is preparing to launch MHPSS and protection activities and has launched the procurement of 500 dignity kits for a distribution in the next few months. IOM's DTM Flow Monitoring teams continue to contribute to the monitoring of displaced movements from Sudan.

