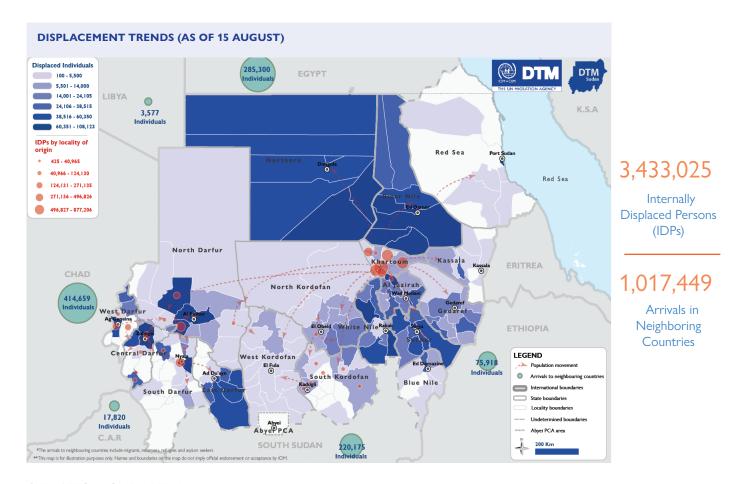


# REGIONAL SUDAN RESPONSE SITUATION UPDATE 15 AUGUST 2023

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

A solution to the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has yet to be negotiated after four four months of conflict. UN principals call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and share three messages to the people of Sudan, the parties to the conflict and the international community.

In a televised speech on 14 August, the SAF leader, Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah Al Burhan, accused the RSF of violations and crimes against civilians under the false promise of democracy. Last week, the SAF also established a Committee for War Crimes and Violations and Practices for the RSF to investigate crimes committed by the RSF. More recently, the RSF announced the establishment of a new body called the Sudan Agency for Relief and Humanitarian Operations responsible for coordinating relief and humanitarian operations in RSF-controlled territories. Meanwhile, RSF's account on one of the social media platforms has been suspended. Some Sudanese political parties have issued statements rejecting the war and positioning themselves as neutral. Reports emerging from Eastern Sudan and Blue Nile, allege ongoing SAF recruitments in training camps. In Wad Madani, the No to Women's Oppression initiative was prevented from organizing a gathering calling for an end to the war.

Following last week's first meeting of the ministerial mechanisms in N'Djamena, Chad, to which Ministers of neighbouring countries to Sudan - Egypt, Chad, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Eritrea, and the Central African Republic, participated, a communiqué was released



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noting ongoing coordinated efforts and devised plan for lasting peace and dialogues in Sudan. On 11 August, Lieutenant General Yasser Al-Atta, reiterated that SAF would only re-enter the Jeddah talks once the RSF had withdrawn from occupied homes and government institutions. On 9 August, the UN Security Council held its 9394th meeting on Sudan and South Sudan. During the meeting, council members raised concerns regarding the ongoing humanitarian crisis, crimes committed against civilians, and heightened risks of regional spillovers, as well as expressed support for ongoing regional initiatives. Meanwhile, the signatories to the Framework Agreement met in Addis Ababa on 13 August to agree on a unified civilian vision to end the war in Sudan.

Fighting continues to be reported in and around strategic locations in Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri. Last week, heavy fighting was reported in Omdurman, while reports of fighting around the Armoured Corps and near the SAF HQ in Khartoum continued. In North Kordofan, SAF attacks on RSF positions in and around El Obeid were reported, as well as in the localities of Soudary and Um Rawaba. In Blue Nile State, fighting continued in Kurmuk between SAF and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/North-Al Hilu (SPLM-N/AH). Reports described recent operational successes by the SAF; however, their movement continued to be hampered by heavy and continuous rains. In South Kordofan, heavy clashes were reported in Dalami between SPLM-N/AH and SAF.

In Darfur, heavy fighting between the RSF and SAF has been reported in Nyala as the situation remains tense – DTM reports over 4,000 new displacements in Nyala town as a result of the fighting. DTM also reports at least 80 casualties as a result of inter-tribal violence between the Beni Halba and Salamat Arab tribes in Kubbum town, Kubum locality, allegedly prompting further mobilizations by both sides. In Zalingei (Central Darfur) fighting between SAF and RSF continued after SAF regained some control resulting in the displacement of civilians. In North Darfur, DTM reported 5 fatalities as a result of inter-communal clashes in Um Kadadah locality on 5 August. Local sources, however, allegedly described an improving security environment and the resumption of farming activities in Tawila following the deployment of the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW). Although not verified, SLA/AW's presence in Tawila may be indicative of the joint forces taking on a bigger protection role in Darfur in view of the security vacuum. Clashes between the RSF and SLA/AW were also reported in Kass, South Darfur.

The current total estimate of recently displaced individuals across Sudan has reached 3,433,025 individuals (685,657 Households). The current DTM assessment has observed the IDP caseload in all of Sudan's 18 states. The highest proportions of IDPs have been observed in River Nile (14.59%), Northern (10.55%), Sennar (8.22%), White Nile (8.15%), and North Darfur (8.01%). Field teams report that the IDPs observed were originally displaced from eight states. The majority (2,553,817 IDPs, 74.39%) have been reportedly displaced from Khartoum state; followed by North Darfur (8.10%), South Darfur (7.43%), West Darfur (4.80%), Central Darfur (4.28%), North Kordofan (0.51%), South Kordofan (0.48%), and Aj Jazirah (0.01%).

In addition to the internal displacement, the conflict in Sudan has caused the mixed cross-border movements of 1,017,449 individuals into neighbouring countries namely Egypt, Libya, Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. 68% of arrivals tracked in those countries were Sudanese nationals and 32% estimated foreign nationals and returnees. The majority of arrivals were reported in Chad (40.8%), Egypt (28%), and South Sudan (21.6%).

Heavy rains between 4 and 5 August in Zamzam IDP Camp, El Fasher locality, North Darfur, led to the destruction and partial destruction of at least 1,414 houses and 830 latrines. Those displaced are seeking shelters with relatives and neighbors (DTM Flash Alert). OCHA reported that to date, over 13,500 people have been affected by the heavy rains and flooding, with North Darfur, Northern State, and White Nile State being the most severely affected. Electricity cuts across the country are also increasing in frequency and length, with Port Sudan witnessing power outages for over 8 hours. As such, these challenges compound the already severe humanitarian situation in Sudan and neighbouring countries and reinforce the need for flexible funding to sustainably respond to the multidimensional needs of affected populations.



## **RESPONSE OVERVIEW**

#### **SUDAN**



21.171 individuals received MHPSS support

5.228 individuals received protection assistance

14.454 migrants and IDPs benefitted from NFI

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

As of 1 August, 6 containers containing relief items intended for distribution through the pipeline mechanism, including hygiene kits and medical items, were cleared by the Sudan customs and delivered to IOM warehouses in Port Sudan.

Given the consistent prioritization of the principles of localization in its response, 13 Rapid Response Fund (RRF) sub-grants are underway in the states of the Red Sea, Kassala, Khartoum, Aj Jazirah, White Nile, South Kordofan, North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur, in addition to the 7 RRF sub-grants recently completed in the states of the Red Sea, Gedaref, White Nile, and South Darfur. The active sub-grants will include activities related to WASH, health and protection assistance, NFI distributions, and cashbased interventions.

Since the beginning of the conflict, IOM has provided medical assistance as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 21,171 individuals through 4 health facilities, 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 5,228 individuals so far through awareness-raising sessions on safe migration, gender-based violence, psychological first aid (PFA), counter-trafficking, art therapy, and psychoeducation. Moreover, 14,454 migrants and IDPs benefitted from NFI kits and 6,020 from hygiene kits. Since 15 April, 50 stranded migrants have received voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) assistance to their country of origin, while 37 migrants received consular (pre-departure) assistance. In partnership with the Sudanese Organization for Development (SOD), IOM has also provided legal assistance to 19 migrants in vulnerable situations in Kassala, Gedaref and Port Sudan states, and is now extending those services to IDPs.

# **SOUTH SUDAN**

10.189 individuals reached through PSEA awareness sessions

2.387 individuals reached with MHPSS assistance

14.454 migrants and IDPs benefitted from NFI kits

As of 13 August, 220,175 individuals have been recorded as arriving in South Sudan from Sudan (15,434 Sudanese, and 204,741 non-Sudanese). Wunthow/Juda, near Renk, Upper Nile State, continues to be the point of entry (PoE) for most new arrivals to South Sudan. IOM is also continuing to lead and contribute to efforts towards onward transport movements from border areas to locations across South Sudan. The government and humanitarian partners continue to facilitate onward transportation for affected populations via road, air, and riverine means.

During the past week protection staff identified a total of 4,265 individuals in households with one or more vulnerable household members. In Renk, individual protection assistance (IPA) was provided to 18 individuals, with another 9 being assisted with IPA in Malakal. Committed to mainstreaming PSEA principles throughout its response, IOM's protection teams conducted awareness sessions on

PSEA, safe reporting mechanisms, and available services, reaching 10,189 individuals in Malakal.

IOM continues to scale up its health assistance to affected populations. IOM's MHPSS team provided support to 2,387 vulnerable persons, of which 305 were persons with disabilities at various border crossing points or onward transportation reception points. In Renk, IOM provided 3,124 medical consultations, and ensured 1,779 children received vaccination against measles; health services were also provided to 96 new arrivals in the Abyei Administrative area.

IOM's WASH teams continue to provide access to safe drinking water for those impacted by the crisis. In Renk, Upper Nile State, IOM delivers 120m3 of water daily. In Unity State, IOM monitors and provides 5.9 m3 of clean drinking water to returnees and refugees transiting through the Panakuach point of entry (PoE).

As part of its CCCM activities, IOM is constructing 10 communal shelters and an information desk in Rotriak, Unity state, and 2 additional communal shelters in the Bulukat transit centre. IOM is also strengthening information sharing mechanisms in the transit centre to ensure that appropriate information is shared with returnees upon arrival and while at the centre.



IOM supporting WFP food distributions for over 16,000 returnees in the east of Chad

# **CHAD**

12.874

individuals received multipurpose cash assistance 9.926

reached with water trucking

14,762

people benefitted from distribution of tarpaulins

As of 11 August, 414,659 individuals have been observed crossing the border from Sudan into Chad as a result of the ongoing crisis in Sudan. IOM Chad's DTM teams, in coordination with the National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees (CNARR) and partners, have, to date, registered 39,117 returnees.

As part of its multisectoral response, IOM Chad has thus far reached a total of 31,481 individuals. This includes 12,874 individuals supported with unconditional, unrestricted multipurpose cash assistance and 9,926 assisted through water trucking activities. IOM is also supporting extremely vulnerable households by distributing tarpaulins and jerrycans and has reached 14,762 and 5,528 people respectively through these activities.

Committed to ensuring the safe and dignified relocation of an estimated 10,000 vulnerable returnees living in inadequate conditions in the border town of Adré, IOM is continuing site development activities in Tongori in Ouaddaï province and has identified 120 of the most vulnerable households to prioritize for relocation. As part of the same, IOM is coordinating with UNICEF and UNFPA to install women and child-friendly spaces. Additionally, at the interagency level, IOM supported WFP in the distribution of emergency food assistance to 3,000 vulnerable returnees in the Sila province.

Given its extensive experience in supporting the needs of TCNs, IOM is continuing to identify TCNs in displacement sites near the border in coordination with local authorities. The provision of Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) assistance to TCNs from Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sierra Leone from Farchana to N'Djamena and then onward to their countries of origin is also underway.

#### **ETHIOPIA**

187 refugees assisted with medical screening 187 refugees provided transportation assistance

19 Ethiopian returnees assisted with medical screening

The latest update on arrival figures dates to 13 August and records 75,918 individuals (25,113 Sudanese and 50,805 non-Sudanese) as having crossed the border from Sudan into Ethiopia. In the reporting period, IOM Ethiopia provided medical screening to 187 refugees and 19 Ethiopian returnees. Additionally, IOM supported 187 refugees with onward transportation assistance.

Escalating tensions in the Amhara region have made humanitarian access to Metema, the main point of entry from Sudan, more complex and challenging, particularly given movement restrictions and limited internet connectivity. IOM has observed a sharp decline in arrivals through Metema in light of the increasing insecurity that complicates onward travel within the Amhara region. Teams continue to monitor the situation to resume the provision of assistance at Metema as the security and operational context allows.

### **EGYPT**

The latest update on arrival figures from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs dates to 1 August – with over 285,300 people (272,000 Sudanese, 6,000 Egyptian returnees, and 7,300 TCNs) recorded as having crossed into Egypt from Sudan. To date, IOM has registered 47,407 people either in-person or online, and has reached approximately 23,558 people with direct assistance, humanitarian evacuation, distribution of non-food items, and other assistance. This includes 3,184 individuals who have received assistance in the form of cash assistance, food vouchers, housing allowance, and medical assistance. IOM has so far provided 50 wheelchairs, 750 hygiene kits, 750 dignity kits, 750 food boxes, and 30 first aid kits through the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC). Additionally, IOM has supported the humanitarian evacuation of 128 TCNs (77 Cameroonians, 50 Chadians, and 1 Ivorian) from the border area to Cairo and onward to their countries of origin, providing buses, food, accommodation, medical checkups, and other logistical support.

# **LIBYA**

As of 13 August, DTM Libya observed 3,577 arrivals (3,027 in Al Kufra, 500 in Om El Araneb, and 50 in Algatroun) of Sudanese migrants and TCNs. This includes 2,657 Sudanese migrants, 1,524 of which arrived indirectly from Chad (974 in Al Kufra, 50 in Algatroun, and 500 in Om El Araneb), and 1,133 of which arrived from Sudan directly via Northern State and North Darfur. Additionally, DTM also recorded the arrival of 600 Libyan returnees and 320 TCNs (245 Chadians, 31 Ethiopians, 16 Somalis, 9 Nigerians, 9 Eritreans, 6 Egyptians, 3 Nigerien, and 1 Burkinabe) from Sudan.

Given extreme vulnerabilities of migrants in the Al Kufra detention centre and following sustained engagement for access to the centre, IOM, in collaboration with UNHCR, conducted an anti-scabies campaign in the centre, reaching 560 migrants. In addition, IOM provided mattresses, and health support such as disinfectant and medication.

# **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)**

Based on updates shared by UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), a total of 17,820 individuals (5,189 households) were recorded as having arrived in the Am Dafock PoE, Vakaga prefecture, from Sudan as of 14 August. This includes 13,119 Sudanese asylum seekers and 4,701 Central African returnees. An estimated 71% of the total are women and girls. Amongst the asylum seekers, 1,510 were relocated to Birao by UNHCR and the local government, where a new site named Korsi is being implemented to host refugees.

