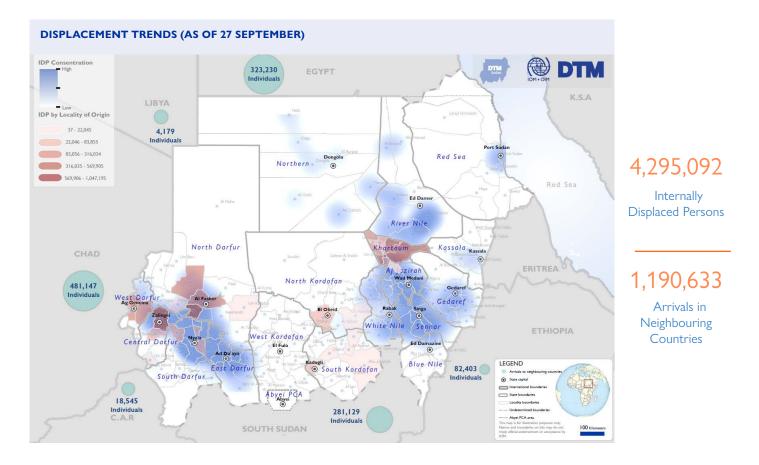


REGIONAL SUDAN RESPONSE SITUATION UPDATE 27 SEPTEMBER 2023

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 Revised Response Overview</u> for the Sudan Crisis and Neighbouring 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

Lt. General al-Burhan, in his <u>address</u> to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) accused the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of war crimes, ethnical cleansing, illegitimate release of ICC indictees from prison and called for the designation of RSF as a terrorist organisation. He reiterated his commitment to a democratic transition in Sudan through the establishment of a technocratic government in an interim period leading up to elections. The Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC/Central Council) <u>defined</u> the statement as disappointing and lacking commitment to address the current crisis. In an interview, FFC-CC spokesperson further <u>stated</u> that neither Lt. General al-Burhan or Lt. General Dagalo would be accepted to lead the democratic transition after the end of the war. Former Prime Minister, Abdallah Hamdok, in a <u>letter</u> to UN Secretary General signed by Sovereign Council members, condemned the UN's invitation to Lt. General al-Burhan as contradictory to declared international stances against the 2021 coup. In the letter, Hamdok also emphasized that the coup had halted Sudan's democratic transition, leading to its constitutional downfall and freezing of international funds until civilian rule was restored. Lt. General Dagalo released a video speech addressed to the UNGA through which he accused Lt. General al-Burhan of falsely representing Sudan at the UNGA as lacking legitimacy following the October 2021 coup. He further accused the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) of being closely affiliated to elements of the old regime, alleged involvement with terrorist groups and concluded by expressing his readiness to declare a nationwide ceasefire to address the humanitarian situation and lead the country towards a democratic transition.

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On the margins of the 78th UNGA, several bilateral meetings between Lt. General al-Burhan and senior officials also took place, including one with the UN Secretary General – with discussions focusing on efforts to resolve the crisis and the UN's role in Sudan. Other meeting included the ICC Prosecutor, the Chairperson of the African Union, Russian Foreign Minister, Saudi Foreign Minister, President of the Central African Republic and US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. Lt. General al-Burhan is said to have also met with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy at Shannon airport in Ireland. In a media interview, Lt. General al-Burhan claimed to have not sought external military support and urged neighbouring countries to stop sending mercenaries in support of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Representatives of the quadrilateral mechanism (Saudi Arabia, UAE, UK and US) also <u>met</u> on the margins of the UNGA to discuss the situation in Sudan and need for SAF and RSF to agree on a ceasefire, resume a political process and facilitate humanitarian aid. The second meeting of foreign ministers of Sudan's neighboring countries was <u>chaired</u> by Egyptian Foreign Minister around the same time, also calling for a permanent ceasefire, inclusive intra-Sudanese dialogue and action to address the humanitarian situation.

Meanwhile, in Addis Ababa, the Civil Front to End the War and Restore Democracy (a front established by the FCC-CC that includes Resistance Committees and trade unions) concluded a two-day meeting and accused both SAF and RSF of crimes against civilians, of prolonging the war and called for coordination among anti-war groups. On 25 September, Saudi Ambassador to Sudan<u>stated</u> that the League of Arab States has set up a joint Saudi-Egyptian committee to follow up on Sudanese affairs and that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has established a fund to support the rebuilding and reconstruction Sudan following the cessation of hostilities. On 25 September, the second two-day round of <u>negotiations</u> surrounding the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) ended without any major developments.

Heavy clashes continued in Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri – with RSF and SAF continuing to claim victories over one another and increasing the targeting of strategic locations. On Monday, 25 September, heavy artillery exchanges between SAF and RSF were reported in proximity of the army's General Command. In Darfur, tensions remain high – fighting between SAF and RSF was reported in Zalingei (Central Darfur) and Nyala (South Darfur), while fighting between SAF and Arab militias was reported in Umkadada, North Darfur. Inte-tribal clashes were reported in Kubum, west of Nyala between the Beni Halba and Salamat communities. In El Fasher, North Darfur, the situation remains stable but tense, with reports of SAF recruiting new soldiers. The Sudanese Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA-AW), a non-signatory to the Juba Peace Agreement, has reportedly deployed standby forces nearby El Fasher to protect IDP camps. In Eastern Sudan, Beja leader <u>reconciled</u> with the Red Sea State military leaders following the clashes reported last week near Port Sudan. SAF recruitment continues to be reported in Blue Nile following the launch of three new recruitment centres.

Last month, field teams observed that the threshold of four million IDPs had been surpassed. Field teams currently estimate that 4,295,092 individuals have been newly displaced since the conflict began – with the caseload set to continue increasing in coming month in the absence of a resolution or a ceasefire in the coming period. Field teams have observed this caseload in 4,080 locations, across 167 of Sudan's 189 localities, across all 18 states. Primarily, fighting between the warring parties has centred around urban areas, especially Khartoum, a historically peaceful city and now the epicentre of the conflict and displacement. IDPs from Khartoum – totalling an estimated 2,911,641 individuals (68% of the total newly displaced) – have primarily sought refuge across Northern, River Nile, Sennar, and White Nile states. Overall, 45% of the IDP have sought refuge in the Darfur and Kordofan regions, whereas the majority (55%) have now been observed in the Northern, Eastern, and Central Sudan. DTM Sudan also estimates that approximately 2.83% 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 1,190,633 individuals into neighbouring countries with Chad receiving the highest number, followed by Egypt, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Central African Republic and Libya. 67% of arrivals tracked in those countries were Sudanese nationals and an estimated 33% were foreign nationals and returnees. The majority of arrivals were reported in Chad (40.4%), Egypt (27.1%), and South Sudan (23.6%).

In her opening <u>remarks</u> at the UNGA High Level Ministerial Side Event "The Cost of Inaction in Sudan," USG Rosemary Di Carlo condemned the violence in Sudan and shocking account of widespread rape and sexual violence. She continued by stating that political inaction has already exacted a heavy cost and pressure on warring parties to end the conflict must be increased.

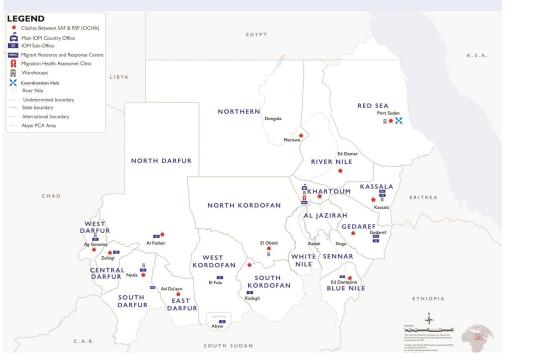


Medical consultation at IOM mobile clinic in Gedaref, Sudan © IOM Sudan 2023

RESPONSE OVERVIEW

SUDAN

SUDAN OPERATIONAL MAP



8,813 individuals provided protection assistance

27,041 individuals assisted with MHPSS support

> 58 migrants received VHR assistance

As of 26 September, 59 containers containing relief items (including hygiene kits and medical consumables) for distribution through IOM's common pipeline mechanism were delivered to IOM warehouses in Port Sudan. In addition to the 7 Rapid Response Fund subgrants recently completed in the states of the Red Sea, Gedaref, White Nile, and South Darfur for the benefit of 172,465 individuals; 13 are underway in the states of the Red Sea, Kassala, Khartoum, Aj Jazirah, White Nile, South Kordofan, North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur. The activities covered by the sub-grants include water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support, health and protection assistance, non-food items (NFI) distributions, and cash-based interventions.

Since the beginning of the conflict, IOM has provided medical assistance as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 27,041 individuals through 4 health facilities (Northern and Blue Nile states, and Abyei), 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 8,813 individuals so far, through awareness-raising sessions on safe migration, gender-based violence (GBV), psychological first aid (PFA), counter-trafficking, art therapy, and psychoeducation.

Since 15 April, 58 stranded migrants have received voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) assistance to their country of origin, while 83 migrants received consular (pre-departure) assistance. Furthermore, in close collaboration with UNHCR, a total of 27 refugees have benefited from resettlement assistance from Sudan to Canada, and 3 from Sudan to the United States. A first family reunification of an unaccompanied minor to his family in Belgium also took place on 3 September.

In partnership with the Sudanese Organization for Development (SOD), IOM has also provided legal assistance to 65 migrants in vulnerable situations in Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea states. As such, IOM supports its beneficiaries' access to identity documents, provides legal counselling on housing, land, and property rights, and provides its beneficiaries with representation in court. Moreover, 16,040 migrants and IDPs benefitted from NFI kits in the Blue Nile, Gedaref, North Darfur, and North and South Kordofan states; and 37,691 benefitted from hygiene kits in the Red Sea, Northern, Gedaref, South Kordofan, and West Darfur states. 1,700 households in the Red Sea state also received multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help them meet their basic needs.



PSEA training for community mobilizers and social workers in El Fasher North Darfur © IOM Sudan 2023

1,734 individuals provided MHPSS support

3,142 individuals provided information on PSEA

40 individuals provided with dignity kits in Abyei

As of 22 September, 281,129 individuals have been recorded as arriving in South Sudan from Sudan (19,904 Sudanese and 261,225 non-Sudanese). Wunthow/Juda, near Renk, Upper Nile State, continues to be the point of entry (PoE) for most new arrivals to South Sudan. Returnee arrivals continue to report onward transportation assistance (OTA), food, shelter/NFIs, WASH, and health as their key priority needs.

IOM continues to scale up its health assistance to affected populations. During the reporting period, IOM's MHPSS team supported 1,734 vulnerable individuals at various border crossing points or onward transportation reception points. Additionally, IOM conducted 3,797 medical consultations in Renk and 76 consultations in Wau, as well as provided health services to 534 new arrivals in Abyei.

IOM's WASH teams continue to provide access to safe drinking water for those impacted by the crisis. In Renk, IOM produced 1140 m3 of clean drinking water at the water treatment plant, and trucked 782m3 of clean water to the Renk transit centre. Elsewhere in the country, IOM provided 340 litres of safe and clean drinking water for affected populations at the Panakuach PoE in Unity state.

As part of its multisectoral response for returnee arrivals, IOM's CCCM teams finalized the operationalization of the transit centre (TC) in Panakuach. The TC is equipped to provide new arrivals with services offered by IOM's MHPSS, Protection, S/NFI, Health, and DTM teams.

During the past week, protection staff identified 3,795 individuals in households with one or more vulnerable household members. Within the reporting period, protection teams provided information on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) to 3,142 individuals across sites in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Panakuach, and Bulukat TC, referred 1,482 individuals across sites in Renk, Amiet, Bentiu, Malakal, and Western Bahr el Ghazal to partners. Additionally, IOM assisted 40 returnee and refugee women in Abyei with dignity kits.

While IOM and partners continue to respond to needs on the ground, inclement weather conditions compound the vulnerability of affected populations, with heavy rains and floods in some regions complicating access and delivery of assistance.

CHAD

6,325	12,400	6,050
individuals relocated	individuals registered	individuals provided
to Tongori	in Deguessa	tarpaulins

The latest update on arrival figures dates to 19 September and records 481,147 individuals (418,187 Sudanese and 62,960 non-Sudanese) as having crossed the border from Sudan into Chad.

During the reporting period, IOM continued to develop and support returnee sites in Ouaddaï and Sila provinces, including providing shelters, coordinating the provision of essential services, and setting up management and governance structures. 975 of the most vulnerable returnee households (6,325 individuals) were voluntarily relocated to the new site established by IOM in Tongori (Ouaddaï province) in coordination with authorities. As part of its response in Tongori, the Organization installed shelters, with some being installed by ACTED, as well as constructed 30 emergency latrines and installed a borehole with a water distribution system to supply the site residents with drinking water. Humanitarian partners continue to reinforce service delivery on the site, with UNICEF installing a child-friendly space and UNFPA installing a GBV referral station, while Première Urgence Internationale continues to conduct medical consultations at the site.

Notably, IOM is planning the extension of the Deguessa returnee site (Sila province), where over 12,400 returnees have been registered by IOM. Distribution of tarpaulins to vulnerable households is ongoing, and IOM aims to begin the installation of 1,000 transitional shelters over the coming weeks. Humanitarian partners, including UNICEF, LM International, Lutheran World Foundation (LWF), Concern Worldwide, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Holland, INTERSOS and COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale, are providing or aiming to provide services including latrines, boreholes, WASH/hygiene kits and sensitization, mobile clinics, a community health center, midwife services, GBV referrals, child-friendly spaces, and NFI kits at IOM's site.

Separately over the past week, IOM distributed tarpaulins to 916 vulnerable returnee households (6,050) individuals in Adré and Deguessa. In coordination with local authorities and the National Commission for Refugees and Returnees (CNARR), IOM is also continuing to identify and register returnees in host communities and sites in remote locations to ensure an evidence-based response to the crisis in Sudan.

While IOM and partners continue to deliver assistance in-country, additional funding is critically needed to ensure continued delivery of essential services to extremely vulnerable individuals and communities beyond December 2023.

141 individuals supported with PFA

1,242 individuals vaccinated against cholera

177 individuals provided with protection assistance

The latest update on arrival figures dates to 24 September and records 82,403 individuals (29,247 Sudanese and 53,156 non-Sudanese) as having crossed the border from Sudan into Ethiopia.

During the reporting period, IOM Ethiopia continued to provide health, WASH, protection, and MHPSS assistance as part of its multisectoral response to the Sudan crisis. IOM continues to regularly test water quality to ensure safe drinking water for affected populations, and in the reporting period, delivered 119 m3 of clean water to the Metema PoE.

As part of its health response at Metema, IOM provided PFA to 141 individuals to address immediate psychosocial needs. 65 individuals received sexual and reproductive health services, while all pregnant mothers received counselling on birth preparedness and preparedness in case of complications. Recognizing the health risks at the Metema PoE, IOM conducted awareness-raising sessions on health-related issues, including cholera, reaching 3,059 individuals. In collaboration with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), IOM conducted medical screenings at the PoE, benefiting 1,128 individuals, as well as vaccinated 1,242 returnees and refugees against cholera.

IOM's Migration Response Centre (MRC) continues to be operational; in the reporting period, 51 lactating women were identified and registered for direct assistance at the MRC, and 14 TCNs referred for support from Sudan to Ethiopia. Committed to mainstreaming protection principles throughout its response to the crisis, IOM Ethiopia most recently conducted awareness raising sessions on protection, reaching 56 individuals, and provided 177 returnee migrants with information counselling and targeted protection assistance.

While IOM and partners continue to deliver assistance at Metema, challenges such as prolonged electricity outages, lack of adequate shelters, and shortage of basic services such as dignity kits, food, and clothes compound the vulnerabilities of those displaced by the crisis in Sudan.



Local partners conducting water quality testing to ensure access to safe and clean water for IDPs and host communities in Elfasher, North Darfur © IOM Sudan 2023

EGYPT

31,244 total number of individuals reached

2,030 individuals provided NFI kits

150 CHVs trained on MHPSS and basic services

The latest update on arrival figures from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs dates to 11 September – with 323,230 people (310,000 Sudanese, 6,000 Egyptian returnees, and 7,230 TCNs) as having crossed into Egypt from Sudan. To date, IOM has reached approximately 31,244 people with direct assistance, VHR assistance, distribution of non-food items, and other assistance. As of 25 September, 25,366 individuals have been pre-registered, and 38,813 individuals have been registered for direct assistance. Out of those, 4,363 individuals have received assistance in the form of cash assistance, food vouchers, housing allowance, and medical assistance.

Most recently, IOM provided NFIs (hygiene, dignity, and first aid kits) to 2,030 new arrivals from Sudan (1,580 in Aswan, 250 in Alexandria, and 200 in Cairo). Additionally, IOM provided training to 150 community health volunteers (61 in Cairo, 60 in Alexandria, and 29 in Aswan) on MHPSS, basic services, and the assistance IOM could provide. 313 new arrivals in Aswan from Sudan participated in sessions on medical awareness and the support IOM could provide, including MHPSS and registration services.

As the next step, IOM will visit the border crossing point in Aswan to identify additional medical supplies, equipment, consumables, medication, generators, and desert coolers that may be required by the Egyptian Red Crescent to meet the needs of affected populations.



Displaced mother and child receiving medical assistance at IOM mobile clinic in Wadi Halfa, Northern State. © IOM Sudan 2023

LIBYA

As of 24 September, DTM Libya observed 4,179 arrivals (3,602 in Al Kufra, 500 in Om El Araneb, and 77 in Algatroun) of Sudanese migrants and TCNs. This includes 3,169 Sudanese migrants, 1,577 of which arrived indirectly from Chad (1,000 in Al Kufra, 77 in Algatroun, and 500 in Om El Araneb), and 1,592 of which arrived from Sudan directly via Northern State and North Darfur. Additionally, DTM also recorded the arrival of 600 Libyan returnees and 410 TCNs (294 Chadians, 49 Somalis, 31 Ethiopians, 17 Eritreans, 9 Nigerians, 6 Egyptians, 3 Nigerien, and 1 Burkinabe) from Sudan.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

As of 4 September, a total of 18,545 individuals are recorded as having arrived in CAR since the beginning of the crisis in Sudan, with most having arrived in the Am Dafock PoE. This includes 13,844 Sudanese asylum seekers, and 4,701 returnees. Of the 18,545 recorded arrivals in the country, 1,852 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 continues to strengthen its presence.

Most recently, IOM's protection staff participated in needs assessment activities in Birao to assess needs on the ground. As potential next steps, IOM and partners will aim to develop livelihood, cash for work, and income generating activities, while also raising awareness on gender-based violence (GBV) to address protection concerns.