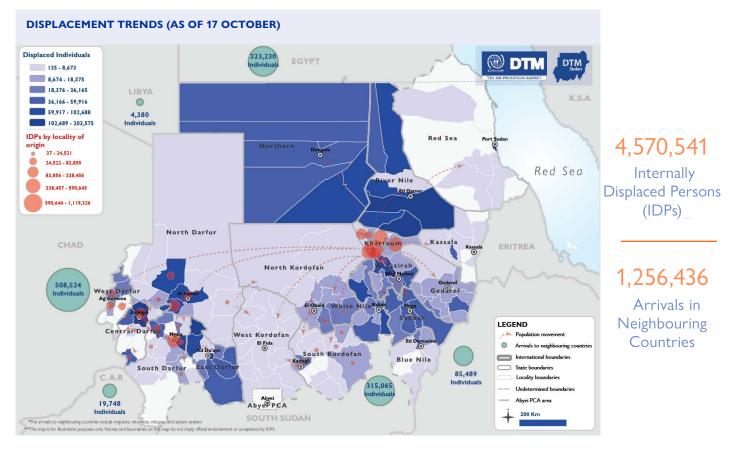


# REGIONAL SUDAN RESPONSE SITUATION UPDATE 17 OCTOBER 2023

IOM calls on all parties to ensure the safety of humanitarians and allow their unrestricted access to be able to assist those most vulnerable. IOM's Revised Response Overview 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

The current conflict in Sudan <a href="has entered its six-month mark">has entered its six-month mark</a> and has become the largest internal displacement crisis in the world with over 7.1 million people displaced within the country.

DTM Sudan estimates that 4,570,541 individuals (911,531 households) have been recently internally displaced. The IDP caseload has been observed in 4,658 locations across all of Sudan's 18 states. The highest proportions of IDPs have been observed in River Nile (12.62%), South Darfur (11.23%), East Darfur (10.97%), Aj Jazirah (8.03%), Northern (7.92%), and North Darfur (7.37%). Field teams report that the IDPs observed were originally displaced from 8 states. The majority (3,127,888 IDPs, 68.44%) have been reportedly displaced from Khartoum state; followed by South Darfur (14.63%), North Darfur (7.94%), Central Darfur (4.01%), West Darfur (3.75%), South Kordofan (0.76%), North Kordofan (0.46%), and Aj Jazirah (0.01%). DTM Sudan also estimates that approximately 2.63% 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 1,256,436 individuals into neighbouring countries namely Egypt, Libya, Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Ethiopia. 65% of arrivals tracked in those countries were Sudanese nationals and 35% estimated foreign nationals and returnees. The majority of arrivals were reported in Chad (40.5%), Egypt (25.7%), and South Sudan (24.1%).





Returnees boarding IOM facilitated OTA boat from Renk to Malakal @ IOM South Sudan 2023

The surge of newly displaced people across Sudan during that six-month period has overwhelmed public services and resources in the areas of arrival, creating appalling living conditions for millions of people who face a daily struggle to survive. The situation is further exacerbated by significant damage to infrastructure, the collapse of banking and financial services, frequent interruptions to the internet, telecommunications and electricity supply and the destruction of health facilities. The sanitary situation remains dire, with more than 1,000 suspected cases in Gearef, Khartoum and Kordofan States. The food situation remains of high concern, with WFP estimating that 6 million people are on the verge of famine in the country.

The conflict continues to see heavy fighting, with reports of numerous civilian, and military and humanitarian workers victims (45 humanitarian workers have been killed or detained). In a <u>recent statement</u>, Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths reported that over 9,000 people had been reported killed so far, and 25 million people in need of aid. <u>Calls to put an end to the fighting</u> and to allow unhindered humanitarian access have been launched by multiple actors, <u>including from IOM's Director General Amy Pope</u>, at the occasion of the 6-month mark of the conflict.

Heavy fighting and airstrikes continue to be reported in Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri, including in residential areas, as well as at the border between Khartoum and Aj Jazirah states. In Central Sudan, authorities in Aj Jazirah state deployed a large security presence in areas bordering Khartoum State.

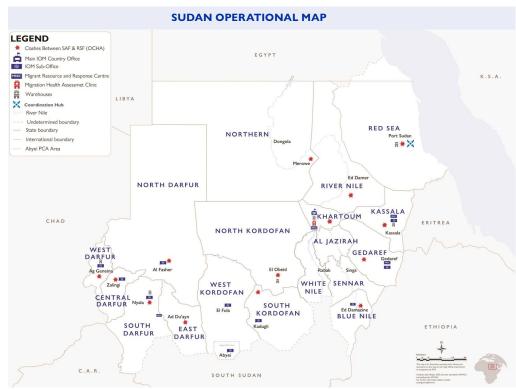
In Omdurman, the intensification of the shelling has been leading residents to flee away from their homes. On 13 October, <u>17 people</u> were killed in a bombing targeting several neighborhoods.

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir says that he will host <u>peace talks</u> in the capital Juba next week, with representatives of Sudanese political leaders. Mediation will aim at relaunching talks around the Juba Peace Agreement signed in 2020, in hope of putting an end to the conflict.

IOM has been at the forefront of the response since the onset of the crisis, providing life-saving assistance to over 444,000 people in Sudan. The Organization is expanding its operations by opening new offices in cities including Kosti, Wad Madani and Wadi Halfa.

#### **RESPONSE OVERVIEW**

#### **SUDAN**



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

28,540 individuals provided NFI kits

27,620 individuals reached with medical and MHPSS support

13,779 individuals supported with protection assistance

Since the conflict erupted on 15 April, IOM has distributed NFI kits (including plastic sheets, jerrycans, kitchen sets, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, and solar torch lamps) to 28,540 crisis-affected individuals in Blue Nile, Gedaref, North Darfur, North and South Kordofan states. Additionally, another 42,726 individuals benefitted from the distribution of hygiene kits in the Red Sea, Northern, Gedaref, South Kordofan, and West Darfur states. 10 new containers with relief items (including NFI and hygiene kits as well as medical consumables) have just arrived in Port Sudan, in addition to the 75 containers already received and another 21 containers en route to Sudan.

Since the beginning of the conflict, IOM has provided medical assistance as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 27,620 individuals through 8 health facilities (Northern and Blue Nile states, and Abyei), mobile outreach to hard-to-reach communities, and its two Migrant Resource and Response Centers (MRRCs) located in Gedaref and Kassala. To support the growing number of individuals in need of essential WASH services, IOM also distributed handwashing stations, repaired handpumps, constructed showers and solar-powered water yard for the benefit of 12,380 crisis-affected individuals in 4 states (Gedaref, North Darfur, Northern and Blue Nile states).

In addition, MRRCs have provided protection assistance to 13,779 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, 84 stranded migrants have received voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) assistance to their country of origin, while 169 migrants received consular (pre-departure) assistance. Furthermore, in close collaboration with UNHCR, a total of 47 refugees have benefited from resettlement assistance from Sudan to Canada, and 3 from Sudan to the United States. Eleven individuals have also been assisted to reunite with their families in the United Kingdom and Belgium. In partnership with the Sudanese Organization for Development (SOD), IOM has provided legal assistance to 82 migrants in vulnerable situations in Kassala, Gedaref and Port Sudan states, and is now extending those services to IDPs. Among other things, IOM supports its beneficiaries' access to identity documents, provides legal counselling on housing/land/property rights, and provides its beneficiaries with representation in court.

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 for the benefit of 172,465 individuals; 15 are underway in the states of the Aj Jazirah, Kassala, Khartoum North Darfur, Northern, Red Sea, South Darfur, South Kordofan, and West Darfur and White Nile states targeting almost 545,000 individuals. The activities covered by the sub-grants include WASH support, health and protection assistance, NFI distributions, and cash-based interventions.

#### **SOUTH SUDAN**

2,485 individuals participated in PSEA training

1,718
individuals assisted with telecom and information provision services

2,690 individuals assisted with medical consultations

As of 15 October, 315,065 individuals have been recorded as arriving in South Sudan from Sudan (30,108 Sudanese and 284,957 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.

Over the past week, IOM's MHPSS team supported 1,611 individuals through the provision of psychological and emotional support, psychological first aid, as well as follow-up and referral to available services; the deteriorating security situation in some parts of the country complicated the provision of services across all locations. Through its initiatives on primary healthcare, IOM conducted 2,657 medical consultations in Renk and 33 consultations in Wau, as well as provided health services to 89 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 ensured the delivery of 1,170 m3 of clean drinking water at the water treatment plant and trucked 1,110 m3 of clean water to the Renk transit centre (TC). IOM also provided 480 litres of safe and clean drinking water at the Panakuach PoE in Unity state, supporting 136 individuals, and rehabilitated 32 latrine stances at the TC in Malakal.

IOM's CCCM teams continue to receive returnees in TCs across three states and provide essential communication and engagement activities with communities. Over the past week, a total of 1,718 returnees benefitted from telecommunication services and the provision of vital information, including locations of health facilities, public transport stations, wash facilities, RRC office, and operating partners in the area. This is crucial as returnees are unfamiliar with the services in the area.

As part of its multisectoral response to returnee arrivals, protection staff conducted training on PSEA awareness, reaching a total of 2,485 returnees from Sudan across Aweil, Renk, Abyei, Bentiu, and Malakal. Separately, IOM supported the fast-tracking of 300 extremely vulnerable returnees in Aweil during a WASH distribution, as well as assisted 11 cases with similar levels of vulnerability with individual protection assistance (IPA) to address immediate needs. However, field teams note a critical shortage of dignity kits in Abyei; as such, additional kits are urgently needed to meet the high demand in the area.

## **CHAD**

15,000 individuals registered in Deguessa

4,316 individuals provided with cash assistance

The latest update on arrival figures dates to 10 October and records 508,524 individuals (431,197 Sudanese and 77,327 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 the provision of shelters, NFIs, WASH services, protection services, MHPSS, and multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), as well as the coordination of the provision of essential services through various national and international partners.

The extension of the Deguessa returnee site (Sila province), where 15,000 returnees have been registered by IOM, has started. Humanitarian partners, including UNICEF, LM International, Lutheran World Foundation (LWF), Concern Worldwide, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Holland, INTERSOS, WFP, and COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale, are providing or aiming to provide services including shelters, NFI kits, boreholes, WASH/hygiene kits and sensitization, food, mobile clinics, a community health center, midwife services, GBV referrals, child-friendly spaces, and educational support and spaces at IOM's site. As the next steps, IOM aims to install 1,850 transitional shelters, create 2 boreholes, and distribute 1,000 WASH kits.

Separately, IOM is in the process of distributing a second round of MPCA to 2,000 new returnee households (10,400 individuals) in Tongori and Sila provinces. As such, this complements previous efforts that reached 3,000 households (12,874 individuals) earlier this year in May to reinforce the resilience of returnee populations. 830 households (4,316 individuals) in Goz Achiyé, Sila have already received the cash, with plans in the pipeline to reach 1,000 households in IOM's new site in Tongori (Ouaddaï province).

While IOM and partners continue to deliver assistance in-country, multiple challenges pose barriers to the continued provision of essential services. These include but are not limited to, potential limitations on humanitarian access given the upcoming rainy season and secondary displacement due to flooding in displacement sites. As such, additional funding is urgently needed to ensure continued assistance to affected populations beyond December 2023.

#### **ETHIOPIA**

1,944 individuals received MPCA

946
individuals benefited from
medical screenings conducted in
collaboration with EPHI

143 individuals provided PFA

The latest update on arrival figures dates to 15 October and records 85,489 individuals (31,129 Sudanese and 54,360 non-Sudanese) as having crossed the border from Sudan into Ethiopia.

During the reporting period, IOM 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 over 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 143 individuals to address immediate psychosocial needs. 73 individuals received sexual and reproductive health services, while all pregnant mothers received counselling on birth preparedness and preparedness in case of complications. To mitigate the increasing health risks at the Metema PoE, IOM conducted medical consultations for 542 individuals. In collaboration with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), IOM conducted medical screenings at the PoE, benefiting 946 individuals, and in partnership with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Holland, vaccinated 346 children against measles.

IOM's Migration Response Centre (MRC) continues to be operational; in the reporting period, 21 lactating and 23 pregnant women were identified and registered for direct assistance, and 78 returnee migrants registered for OTA assistance. Additionally, 221 individuals received translation support at IOM information help desk, while 486 households (approximately 1,944 individuals) received multipurpose cash assistance.

As part of its protection activities at the MRC, IOM assisted 153 individuals with protection assistance, referring 97 of them for further assistance. Recognizing the differentiated needs of displaced populations, IOM specifically provided 7 persons with disabilities with protection assistance. IOM is continuing to deliver assistance to third country nationals (TCNs) who have crossed the border into Ethiopia as a result of the crisis in Sudan. As part of these efforts, 1 Ugandan national was assisted with information services, while 15 Syrians were registered for OTA 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.

#### **EGYPT**

32,959 total number of people

500 new arrivals provided direct health assistance

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 32,959 people with direct assistance, VHR assistance, distribution of non-food items, and other assistance. As of 16 October, 26,290 individuals have been pre-registered, and 44,660 individuals have been registered for direct assistance. Out of those, 5,140 individuals have received assistance in the form of cash assistance, food vouchers, housing allowance, and medical assistance.

As part of its multisectoral response in Aswan, IOM visited Sudanese community schools in the area to conduct screening of cases for education grants. Separately, IOM's health teams conducted health screenings in Cairo and provided direct assistance for nearly 500 new arrivals. Cases that required further assistance and specialized medical support were identified and referred further to partner hospitals.

## **LIBYA**

As of 15 October, DTM Libya observed 4,380 arrivals (3,793 in Al Kufra, 500 in Om El Araneb, and 87 in Algatroun) of Sudanese migrants and TCNs. This includes 3,309 Sudanese migrants, 1,587 of which arrived indirectly from Chad (1,000 in Al Kufra, 87 in Algatroun, and 500 in Om El Araneb), and 1,722 of which arrived from Sudan directly via Northern State and North Darfur. Additionally, DTM also recorded the arrival of 600 Libyan returnees and 471 TCNs (294 Chadians, 67 Ethiopians, 61 Somalis, 24 Eritreans, 9 Nigerians, 6 Egyptians, 6 Mauritanian, 3 Nigerien and 1 from Burkinabe) from Sudan.

## **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)**

As of 2 October, a total of 19,748 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 15,047 Sudanese asylum seekers, and 4,701 returnees. Of the 19,748 recorded arrivals in the country, 1,935 were relocated from Am Dafock to Birao by UNHCR and the local government as of 25 September. As such, the government has instructed partners to concentrate on the response and humanitarian efforts in Birao, where IOM continues to strengthen its presence. IOM has organized meetings with local authorities to introduce the protection activities which will be implemented in Birao and has conducted sensitization activities for Sudanese refugees.