# REGIONAL SUDAN RESPONSE

SITUATION UPDATE 21 NOVEMBER 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.

### 5 million

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN SUDAN

## 1.4 million

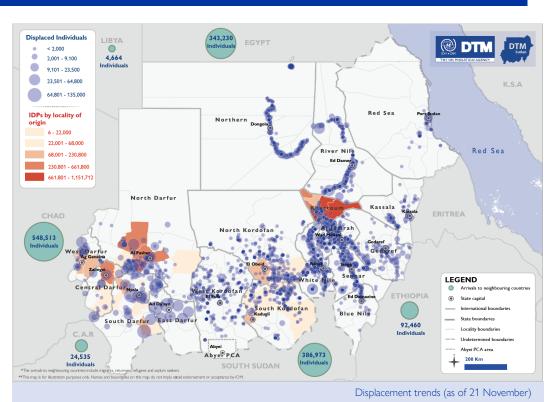
ARRIVALS IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

### 1.9 million

PEOPLE TARGETED IN SUDAN AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

### USD 418 million

REQUIRED BY IOM TO SUPPORT AFFECTED POPULATIONS



#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The last few weeks have seen a number of significant developments in the positioning of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and key armed movement signatories, both in terms of the evolution of the conflict and key political advancements. Lt. General al-Burhan has met with Kenyan President Ruto, as chair of the IGAD's Quartet on Sudan, and agreed to accelerate the political process, convene an IGAD summit meeting on Sudan and organize and all-inclusive Sudanese dialogue. The meeting between Lt. General Burhan and President Ruto may signify a change in SAF positioning towards Kenyan leadership of the IGAD Quartet. More recent reports also point to an improvement in diplomatic relations between Sudan and Ethiopia. Meanwhile, Lt. General Burhan also continues to engage with various regional actors across various forums,

whilst accusing RSF and those supporting RSF of genocide. RSF continues to gain control of Darfur and other key areas, with latest reports pointing to RSF taking over Ed Dein in East Darfur and seizing the SAF helicopter bases in Jebel Aulia opening up the opportunity for a RSF advancement into White Nile. In conjunction with advancements in Darfur, RSF have claimed to have formed a joint force with some rebel movements to maintain regional security in Darfur. In conjunction, key armed movement signatories of the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA) issued a statement declaring an end to their neutrality an alignment with SAF quoting the violations and crimes perpetrated by RSF and threats that the conflict is posing to the unit of Sudan as the reason behind the change in position.

On 16 November, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sudan sent a letter to the UN Secretary General announcing the Government's decision to terminate the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission to in Sudan (UNITAMS) with immediate effect. The letter further stipulates the Government's continued commitment to engage constructively with the Security Council and the UN on a new and agreed upon formula. On 17 November, during the daily press briefing of the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary General, Stéphane Dujarric confirmed that the Secretary-General has appointed Ian Martin to lead a strategic review of the UN Mission in Sudan to provide the Security Council with options on how to adapt the Mission's mandate. During the briefing, the appointment of Ramtane Lamamra, of Algeria, as the SG's Personal Envoy to Sudan was announced. On 20 November, the Sudanese Government reported sending a delegation to New York to hold an expanded discussion with the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, and concerned parties at the United Nations to discuss the request to end the UNITAMS mission.

Heavy fighting and air strikes continue across Khartoum and Bahri, with intensifying fighting around strategic positions. Shambat Bridge, which connects Omdurman to Bahri, was partially destroyed and heavy attacks were launched on the SAF Helicopter Base in Jebel Aulia, which according to the latest report was taken over by RSF. In Darfur, attacks and fighting between RSF and SAF was recorded in North Darfur, East Darfur and West Darfur, with renewed violence against the Masalit tribe. In South Darfur, inter-communal clashes resumed between the Salamat and Habbaniya tribes in Buram locality. As a result of the escalation of fighting in West Darfur, an increase of influxes into Chad were recorded over the last week.

DTM Sudan estimates that **5,090,869** Individuals (**1,013,051** households) have been recently internally displaced. The IDP caseload has been observed in **5,473** locations across all of Sudan's 18 states. The highest proportions of IDPs have been observed across South Darfur (12.28%), River Nile (11.99%), East Darfur (10.59%), White Nile (8.32%), North Darfur (8.31%), and Northern (7.09%). Field teams report that the IDPs observed were originally displaced from eight states. The majority (3,403,481 IDPs, 66.85%) have been reportedly displaced from Khartoum state; followed by South Darfur (15.61%), North Darfur (8.87%), Central Darfur (3.8%), West Darfur (3.65%), South Kordofan (0.69%), North Kordofan (0.52%), and Aj Jazirah (0.01%). DTM Sudan also estimates that approximately 2.39% 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 **1,400,375** individuals into neighbouring countries namely Egypt, Libya,

Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Ethiopia. 64% of arrivals tracked in those countries were Sudanese nationals and 36% estimated foreign nationals and returnees. The majority of arrivals were reported in Chad (39.2%), South Sudan (27.6%), and Egypt (24.5%).

Seven months into the conflict, Sudan is facing one of the fastest unfolding global crises. To date, over 3,00 suspected cholera cases have been reported, approximately 65% of the population lacks access to healthcare, over 19 million children are out of school and Sudan's economy is estimated to have shrunk by 12%. Urgent funding is needed in Sudan and across neighbouring countries to meet the increasing humanitarian needs, level of displacement and increasing influxes into neighbouring countries.

### IOM RESPONSE OVERVIEW

## SUDAN

500,770

INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED SINCE THE ONSET OF THE CRISIS





299,835 INDIVIDUALS

35,168 INDIVIDUALS

Since the conflict erupted on 15 April, IOM has assisted 500,770 crisis-affected individuals across Sudan. This assistance includes the distribution of NFI kits (including plastic sheets, jerrycans, kitchen sets, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, and solar torch lamps) to 45,356 crisis-affected individuals in Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, North Darfur, North Kordofan, Red Sea and South Kordofan states. Additionally, another 31,481 individuals benefitted from the distribution of hygiene kits and another 299,835 individuals benefited from the provision of other WASH items in the Red Sea, Northern, Gedaref, South Kordofan, and West Darfur states.

Moreover, IOM has provided medical assistance as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 32,411 individuals through 8 health facilities (Northern and Blue Nile states, and Northern 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, and other emergency WASH services

for the benefit of 51,704 crisis-affected individuals across Sudan.

IOM has also provided protection assistance to 35,168 individuals so far, through awareness raising sessions, case management, psychological first aid (PFA), art therapy, psychoeducation, in kind assistance and referrals to specialized services. IOM also provides legal assistance to displaced persons and other migrants in vulnerable situations in Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea states. Among other things, IOM supports its beneficiaries' access to civil documentation, provides legal counselling on housing, land and property rights, and provides affected populations with representation in court.

Since 15 April, 129 stranded migrants have received voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) assistance to their country of origin, while 171 migrants received consular (pre-departure) assistance. In close collaboration with UNHCR, IOM also resettled 149 refugees from Sudan to Canada and the United States. Another 30 individuals have also been assisted to reunite with their families in Belgium, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Through the Rapid Response Fund mechanism, IOM's partners have reached 308,450 direct beneficiaries and 445,957 indirect beneficiaries in Sudan with ES/NFI, WASH, Health, FSL and Protection interventions so far.

## SOUTH SUDAN

12,308 INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED WITH ONWARD TRANSPORTATION

12,096 INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED WITH HEALTH AND MHPSS SERVICES

11,272 INDIVIDUALS REACHED WITH PSEA IN-FORMATION SESSIONS

As of 19 November, 386,973 individuals have been recorded as arriving in South Sudan from Sudan (61,594 Sudanese and 325,379 non-Sudanese), an increase of 15,503 individuals over the past week. Wunthow/Juba, near Renk (Upper Nile State), continues to be the point of entry (PoE) for most new arrivals to South Sudan. The continued influx of new arrivals is putting huge pressure on already overstretched response in South Sudan. Onward transportation assistance (OTA) was provided in the past week to 12,308 individuals, essentially by boat and river transportation. Since the start of the crisis, IOM has facilitated OTA through river transportation of 94,554



returnees from Renk to Malakal and other locations, and over 50,000 benefited from chartered flights to reach their final destinations.

IOM continues to provide access to safe drinking water for those impacted by the crisis. As part of these efforts, IOM supplied 25,000 litres of water over the past week to affected populations and installed a new tank to increase water production capacity by 30m3 per day.

Given the priority needs, IOM supported 876 individuals over the past week with MHPSS assistance, psychological support, and referrals. As part of its broader health response, IOM assisted 12,096 individuals with primary healthcare in health facilities and mobile clinics and provided vaccination and immunization services for 3,210 children and adults. To further ensure all of IOM's initiatives are equitable and responsible, IOM provided information on PSEA, referrals, and available services to 11,272 individuals as part of its commitment to mainstreaming PSEA principles throughout its response.

Access constraints due to the rainy season and unpredictable security situation, compounded by a shortage of resources remain key challenges in providing essential assistance to the vulnerable affected populations. Additionally, most of the South Sudanese who fled to Sudan before the current conflict never returned and have little ties with local communities, which is increasing their vulnerability status as returnees. Given the continued increase in the number of arrivals in South Sudan, as well as the severe lack of basic life-saving assistance at PoEs, additional funding is urgently needed to effectively respond to the needs of affected populations.

## CHAD

24,949

INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED WITH MPCA

32,007

INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED WITH PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

As of 17 November, 548,513 individuals have been recorded as arriving in Chad from Sudan (450,000 Sudanese and 98,513 non-Sudanese), an increase of 6,310 individuals since last reporting period.

Over 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, and MHPSS, as well as the coordination of the provision of essential services through various national and international partners.

IOM is continuing to support food distributions by WFP to returnees in various sites in Sila and Ouaddaï, as well as registering newly arrived returnee households. To date, IOM has reached 57,142 individuals through multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), provision of NFIs, WASH services and protection services in those sites.

IOM is also relocating returnees from Adré to a site in Tongori in coordination with the authorities. In total, 1,012 of the most vulnerable returnee households (6,580 individuals) have so far been relocated. Separate designated ambulatory vehicles were used to transport the most vulnerable, including people with disabilities. Furthermore, IOM has supported the establishment of a site governance structure with representatives elected by the site residents and is supporting the establishment of community groups, as part of its AAP framework.

While IOM and partners continue to deliver assistance incountry, increased donor support is urgently needed in Chad to ensure continued assistance to affected populations, including the host communities, beyond December 2023 and to respond to the continued influx of returnees. IOM estimates the number of Chadian returnees to rise to 150,000 by the end of March 2024, due to conflict worsening in Darfur.

## **ETHIOPIA**

649

INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED WITH MEDICAL

**CONSULTATIONS** 

1,380

MHPSS SERVICES PROVIDED

215

INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED WITH OTA

As of 20 November, 92,460 individuals have been recorded as arriving in Ethiopia from Sudan (36,397 Sudanese and 56,063 non-Sudanese), an increase of 1,301 individuals over the past week.

IOM continued to provide health, WASH, protection, MHPSS and movement assistance as part of its multisectoral response to populations affected by the crisis. IOM continues to ensure adequate WASH conditions at PoEs, through installation of latrines, cleaning campaigns and regularly testing of water quality to ensure safe drinking water for affected populations. Over the reporting period, IOM delivered 119m3 of potable drinking water at the Metema PoE.

As part of its health response at Metema, IOM provided MHPSS services to 1,380 returnees, and 91 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 649 individuals and in collaboration with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), conducted 1,027 medical screenings at the PoE. In addition, a total of 283 returnees, refugees and TCNs were screened for malnutrition, with 3 cases identified and referred.

IOM's Migration Response Centre (MRC) continues to be operational; in the reporting period, 260 returnees have arrived to and were accommodated in the old MRC under assistance from the Government of Ethiopia. IOM has been able to assess the cases and is processing referrals of those in needs of medical and protection assistance. Work in the new MRC continues, especially with WASH installations.

Over the past week, IOM assisted 215 Ethiopian returnees with OTA assistance, including provision of hygiene and dignity kits. Out of the 215, 145 returned to Addis Ababa and beyond, while 70 persons returned to Gondar town.

## **EGYPT**

37,296

INDIVIDUALS ASSITED SINCE START OF CRISIS

7,802

INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED WITH CASH

The latest update on arrival figures from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs dates to 19 October, and records more than 343,230 individuals (330,000 Sudanese, 6,000 Egyptian returnees, and 7,230 TCNs) as having crossed into Egypt from Sudan.

To date, IOM Egypt has assisted a total of 37,296 individuals. As of 21 November, 33,522 individuals have been preregistered, and 48,269 individuals have been registered for direct assistance. Out of those, 7,802 individuals have received assistance in the form of cash assistance, food vouchers, housing allowance, and medical assistance.

Since the start of the crisis, IOM has assisted a total of 186 TCNs (108 Chadians, 77 Cameroonians, and 1 Ivorian) with VHR as per their needs toward food, non-food items, temporary accommodation, medications, medical checkups, financial assistance, land transport with operational escorts, pre-departure counselling and air transportation to countries of origin with medical escorts.

While IOM is continuing to scale up assistance to affected populations, it is also strengthening efforts to streamline communication and coordination with the government and other agencies to ensure a harmonized response and the timely availability of up-to-date information to support evidence-based activities, especially in the context of multiple crisis in neighbouring countries.

## LIBYA

As of 20 November, DTM Libya observed 4,664 arrivals (3,890 in Al Kufra, 500 in Om El Araneb, and 274 in Algatroun) of Sudanese migrants and TCNs, marking an increase of 48 new arrivals from the previous week. This includes 3,593 Sudanese migrants, 1,786 of which arrived indirectly from Chad (1,012 in Al Kufra, 274 in Algatroun, and 500 in Om El Araneb), and 1,807 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 Burkinabe) from Sudan.

## CENRAL AFRICAN REPUBIC

As of 15 November, a total of 24,535 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 19,834 Sudanese asylum seekers, and 4,701 returnees. Of the total number of recorded arrivals, 2,192 were relocated from Am Dafock to Birao by UNHCR and local authorities, or in some instances by their own means. Furthermore, the government has instructed partners to concentrate on the response and humanitarian efforts in Birao, where IOM continues to strengthen its presence including through engaging with local authorities to prepare the protection activities that will be implemented in Birao shortly, as well as conducting sensitization campaigns for Sudanese refugees, reaching 488 individuals so far.

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