# REGIONAL SUDAN RESPONSE

SITUATION UPDATE 12 DECEMBER 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.

## 5.4 million

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN SUDAN

### 1.45 million

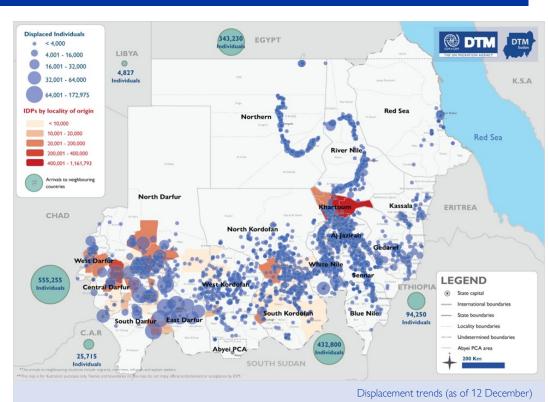
ARRIVALS IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

### 1.9 million

PEOPLE TARGETED IN SUDAN AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

### USD 418 million

REQUIRED BY IOM TO SUPPORT AFFECTED POPULATIONS



### SITUATION OVERVIEW

Following the UN Security Council's decision to terminate UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission (UNITAMS)'s mandate, on 7 December a group of Sudanese and international civil society organisations shared a letter addressed to the UN Security Council and Secretariat expressing their frustration with the decision, reminding that Sudan needs the UN's increased involvement, particularly in regards to the "protection of civilians, coordination of humanitarian assistance, and advancing of efforts to end the conflict and restore peace and stability to the country." Meanwhile, the African Union (AU) Chairperson met for the first time with the newly appointed UN Secretary General's Personal Envoy for Sudan.

On 9 December, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) released a <u>communiqué</u> resolving to

redouble efforts to deliver a peaceful resolution to the conflict and tasked the Executive Secretary of IGAD to appoint an IGAD Special Envoy to Sudan in the shortest time possible. Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs later <u>rejected</u> IGAD's statement, RSF welcomed the statement but made some clarifications, whilst the <u>US</u> and the <u>EU</u> released statements welcoming the outcomes of the meeting.

US Secretary of State Blinken <u>stated</u> on 6 December that since the outbreak of fighting on 15 April, both the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have committed war crimes in Sudan and the expansion of the conflict has caused immense human suffering. In Dubai, on the sidelines of the 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), US Vice President Harris met with UAE President bin Zaye. The two

CONTACTS

leaders discussed the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Sudan. Meanwhile, on 4 December, the US <u>designated</u> three additional officials affiliated to former Omar al-Bashir regime for engaging in activities that undermine the peace, security and stability of Sudan.

Heavy fighting continues in Khartoum, Omdurman, and Bahri, with shelling reported around strategically important areas around the capital. On 11 December, Lt. Gen. Al Burhan returned to the capital and visited forces stationed in Omdurman. In South Kordofan, inter-communal clashes between the Nuba and Hawazma tribes continued to be reported. Reports from the field also alleged to burning of villages around Dilling (South Kordofan) by RSF as the conflict between the Sudanese Liberation Movement North - Al Hilu (SPLM-N/AH) and RSF continues. In West Kordofan, a new agreement was reached between SAF, RSF and the Native Administration to stop the fighting in Babanusa, whilst a new agreement to restore law and order in Muglad was also reached between the Native Administration and RSF. Heavy fighting was also reported in North Kordofan between RSF and SAF. In Blue Nile, SAF recruitment continues - however, fighting was also reported between the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) and the Benishangul People's Liberation Movement on 29 and 30 November - prompting many Ethiopians to flee towards Wad El Mahi (Blue Nile). In Eastern Sudan, RSF allegedly entered Gedaref for the first time since the start of the conflict. Some traditional leaders in the East also expressed their dissatisfaction with Lt. Gen. AL Burhan for not receiving cash assistance for their forces whilst there are no immediate tensions, the situation may evolve to have some larger political implications in the future.

DTM Sudan estimates that **5,424,772** Individuals (**1,079,074** Households) have been recently internally displaced. The IDP caseload has been observed in **5,939** locations across all of Sudan's 18 states.

The highest proportions of IDPs have been observed across South Darfur (13%), River Nile (11%), East Darfur (11%), Aj Jazirah (9%), and North Darfur (8%). Field teams reported that the IDPs were reportedly displaced from eleven states. The majority (3,503,972, 65%) have been reportedly displaced from Khartoum state; followed by South Darfur (16%), North Darfur (9%), Central Darfur (4%), West Darfur (3%), East Darfur (1%), South Kordofan (1%), North Kordofan (1%), West Kordofan (<1%), White Nile (<1%), and Aj Jazirah (<1%).

In addition to the internal displacement, the conflict in Sudan has caused the mixed cross border movements of **1,456,077** individuals into neighbouring countries namely: Egypt, Libya, Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Ethiopia. 63% of arrivals tracked in those countries were Sudanese nationals and 37% estimated foreign nationals and returnees.

The majority of arrivals were reported in Chad (38.1%), South Sudan (29.7%), and Egypt (23.6%).

An <u>attack</u> on a humanitarian convoy of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Khartoum killed two people and injured seven. The Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan Clementine Nkweta-Salami released a <u>statement</u> to express deep alarm and shock over the news and urged all warring parties to respect the principles of international humanitarian law and ensure the safety of civilians and humanitarian personnel. On 11 December, the <u>Global Humanitarian Overview</u> was launched, with the UN appealing for 46 billion in 2024 to respond to the respond to the increasing needs, conflict and devastating consequences on civilians.

#### IOM RESPONSE OVERVIEW

### SUDAN

538,523

INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED SINCE THE ONSET OF THE CRISIS





2,999 INDIVIDUALS

47.989 INDIVIDUALS

Since the conflict erupted on 15 April, IOM has assisted 538,523 crisis-affected individuals across Sudan. This assistance includes the distribution of emergency shelter and non-food items to 64,348 crisis-affected individuals in Aj Jazirah, Blue Nile, East Darfur, Gedaref, Kassala, North Darfur, North Kordofan, Red Sea, River Nile, South Kordofan and West Darfur 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.

IOM has provided emergency health assistance to 47,989 individuals and nutrition support to 1,137 individuals through 8 health facilities (Aj Jazirah, Blue Nile, Northern and Sennar states, and Abyei PCA North), mobile outreach to hard-to-reach communities, and its two Migrant Resource and Response Centers (MRRCs) located in Gedaref and Kassala. Moreover, IOM has provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 2,999 displacement-affected individuals.

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 57,850 crisis-affected individuals across Sudan.

IOM has also provided protection assistance to 35,658 individuals so far, through awareness raising sessions, case management, psychological first aid (PFA), art therapy, psychoeducation, legal aid, and referrals to specialized services across central and eastern Sudan. A total of 32,290 households have received multi-purpose cash assistance, while IOM provided tailored in-kind assistance to 5,195 individuals in extremely vulnerable situations. Another 854 individuals benefited so far from construction of community infrastructure (such as roads, markets, health and community centers) and 83 households have so far received livelihoods assistance.

Since April 15, 144 stranded migrants have received voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) assistance to their country of origin, while six at-risk individuals received humanitarian transportation assistance within Sudan. In close collaboration with UNHCR, IOM also resettled 217 refugees from Sudan to Canada and the United States. Another 35 individuals have also been assisted to reunite with their families in Belgium, Canada, the United Kingdom and United States.

In addition, 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

182,449 TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED

18,016 INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED WITH OTA ASSISTANCE

2,642 INDIVIDUALS REACHED WITH MHPSS

As of 10 December, 432,800 individuals have been recorded as arriving in South Sudan from Sudan (67,080 Sudanese and 365,720 non-Sudanese), an increase of 12,260 individuals from last reporting.

Since the start of the crisis, 182,449 individuals have been assisted by IOM in South Sudan. The overall movement at all border flow monitoring points is still increasing due to the ongoing conflict in areas of Darfur and Kordofan (North and South) states in Sudan, with several intercommunal clashes reported in those states. Increased armed clashes in Kordofan region of Sudan has further raised concerns about deterioration of security situation in the immediate neighbourhood of Abyei in the North which may potentially result in humanitarian implications for Abyei including an increased influx of arrivals. South Sudan DTM and teams deployed at PoEs have registered and conducted verifications



16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign through theatre in Sudan

for 13,380 new arrivals, and registered 7,216 vulnerable individuals to access services as priority.

In the past week, onward transportation assistance (OTA) was provided to 18,016 individuals, by boat (3,165 by boat vouchers), by IOM chartered flights (3,029) from Malakal to Wau, Juba, Rubkona and other final destinations, and by road (11,822) from Joda border crossing to Renk.

IOM supported 2,642 individuals over the past week with MHPSS assistance, psychological support, and referrals. As part of its broader health response, IOM assisted 4,757 individuals with primary healthcare in health facilities and mobile clinics and provided vaccination and immunization services for 3,569 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 13,951 individuals.

There has been a recent increase in the population in Amiet, Abyei Administrative Area, especially comprised of those recently displaced from Nyala, Sudan, causing a strain on essential services and goods, such as medicines in the clinics and food, with market prices very high also due to blocked roads. Many of the recently displaced individuals came with no belongings and need items such as shelter supplies. In the areas where these individuals settled there is limited access to water points and there are no WASH facilities, such as latrines.

Poor infrastructure, lack of roads, flooding and funding constraints are severely impeding capacities of all humanitarian actors. In addition, there is a lack of protection material available in the region to safely provide cholera awareness messaging and visits among the refugees/returnees populations; IOM is working with partners on cholera preparedness and response by providing screening center facilities and establishing perimeter fence around the transit center. IOM continues to provide access to safe drinking water for those impacted by the crisis and has supplied 3,670 m3 of water over the past week.

CHAD

72,216 TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED

11,296 CHADIAN RETURNEES RECEIVED TRANSITIONAL SHELTER

As of 10 December, 555,255 individuals have been recorded as arriving in Chad from Sudan (451,894 Sudanese and 103,361 non-Sudanese), an increase of 4,848 individuals since last reporting period, all Chadian returnees.

IOM DTM is preparing to roll out biometric registration in Tongori site, and is continuing to identify vulnerable returnees in Adré. IOM registered 88,604 Chadian returnees (67% children) and estimates that the total returnee population in Chad is as high as 98,767. IOM continued supporting relocation of returnees from Adré to Tongori (7,570 individuals to date).

Over the reporting period, IOM continued to construct transitional shelters, provide key protection and MHPSS services, and upgrade access to essential WASH services in Tongori (Ouaddai) and Deguessa (Sila) returnee sites. IOM also provides on-the-ground support to food distributions by WFP in returnee sites. To date, IOM has reached 72,216 individuals in those sites, including 24,949 with MPCA, 11,296 with transitional shelter and 38,412 with NFIs.

IOM is preparing to construct 790 new transitional shelters in Tongori, in addition to the 1,303 already constructed (including 170 through its partner ACTED). IOM has allocated 756 transitional shelters in Deguessa, is finishing construction and allocation for another 294, and is preparing to construct an additional 795 new shelters on this location. Construction of one borehole is ongoing in Tongori, powered by solar energy, and 187 bloc latrines and showers are under construction. Water and sanitation interventions are benefitting 42,003 individuals on the supported sites and from host communities.

Protection activities are being conducted in the different sites, including regular meetings with site committees and sensitizations on GBV, MHPSS and other protection issues, and sensitization sessions on PSEA for IOM's partners.

The arrival rates of Chadian returnees continue to rapidly increase in regions bordering Darfur; IOM estimates the number of Chadian returnees to rise to 170,000 by the end of March 2024, with urgent needs for services including education, health care, shelter, and protection. Investments in transition, stabilization and

livelihood need to start, particularly on returnees' sites. While IOM and partners continue to deliver assistance in-country, 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.

## **ETHIOPIA**

462 INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED THROUGH MRCs

837 MHPSS SERVICES PROVIDED

As of 10 December, 94,250 individuals have been recorded as arriving in Ethiopia from Sudan (36,899 Sudanese and 57,351 non-Sudanese). During the last week, DTM reports that 335 individuals have crossed the border into Ethiopia through the Metema PoE (32 refugees, 283 returnees and 20 TCNs); Sudanese authorities have not resumed issuance of exit visas for their nationals. Due to growing tensions at PoE, refugees and asylum seekers are systematically transported to a transit camp in the outskirts of Metema. IOM relocated 43 people to this camp in the last week.

As part of its health and nutrition response at Metema, IOM provided MHPSS services to 837 individuals, and 88 individuals received sexual and reproductive health services. To mitigate the increasing health risks at the Metema PoE, IOM conducted medical consultations for 462 individuals and, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), conducted 498 medical screenings at the PoE. In addition, a total of 218 returnees, refugees and TCNs were screened for malnutrition, with 2 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and one of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) identified and assisted.

At IOM's Migration Response Centre (MRC), 462 vulnerable returnees were screened, identified and registered in collaboration with government partners. Out of these, 368 have returned to their areas of origin. All returnees were assisted with holistic support, including food, water, NFI, MHPSS and transportation.

IOM is currently assisting 10 TCNs living in transit camp to return to their respective countries. The MRC has linked all TCNs with their respective Embassies, and in the last week all have received emergency travel documents and are awaiting visas and tickets to return. 368 Ethiopian returnees received OTA assistance, all towards Gondar town.

The security situation at the border and in the Amhara region remains tense, leading to insecurity and escalation of communal tension. This situation is complicating provision of humanitarian services, including OTA assistance due to movement restrictions imposed by armed groups, prolonging the stay of returnees in MRCs and straining already limited resources available.

**EGYPT** 

38,801 TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED

350 STUDENTS RECEIVING EDUCATION GRANTS

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 38,918 individuals. Out of those, 9,219 individuals have received direct assistance and 29,513 had received assistance in the form of health and protection sensitizations, NFI and food distribution. As of 10 December, 43,217 individuals have been pre-registered, and 47,687 individuals have been registered for direct assistance.

Over the past two weeks, IOM, in partnership with PLAN International, distributed 509 blankets, 236 dignity kits to Sudanese new arrivals in Aswan. In complement to the school grants provided last week, IOM, in partnership with Caritas and Save the Children, provided 205 school kits to Sudanese children in Alexandria.

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 UN 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 3 December, DTM Libya observed 4,826 arrivals (3,942 in Al Kufra, 500 in Om El Araneb, and 384 in Algatroun) of Sudanese migrants and TCNs. This includes 3,755 Sudanese migrants, 1,896 of which arrived indirectly from Chad (1,012 in Al Kufra, 384 in Algatroun, and 500 in Om El Araneb), and 1,859 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 30 November, a total of 25,715 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 21,014 Sudanese asylum seekers, and 4,701 returnees. Of the total number of recorded arrivals, 2,425 were relocated from Am Dafock to Birao (Korsi site) by UNHCR and local authorities, or by their own efforts. The government has instructed partners to concentrate on the response and humanitarian efforts in Birao, where IOM continues to strengthen its presence.

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