REGIONAL SUDAN RESPONSE

SITUATION UPDATE 16 JANUARY 2024

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

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.

6 million

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN SUDAN

1.6 million

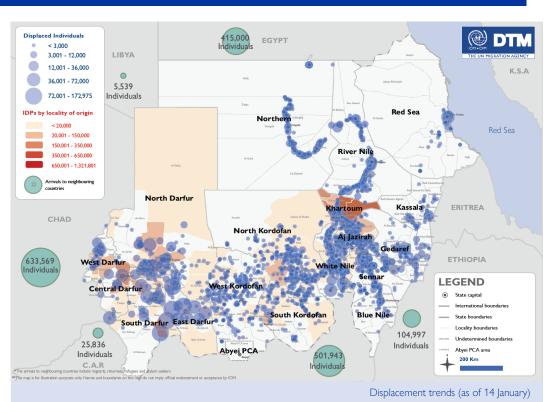
ARRIVALS IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

1.2 million

PEOPLE TARGETED IN SUDAN AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

USD 307 million

REQUIRED BY IOM TO SUPPORT AFFECTED POPULATIONS



SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Coordination of the Civil and Democratic Forces (CCDF) called on armed movements and political parties in Sudan to urgently meet to consult on the establishment of a broad democratic civil front against the ongoing war between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). Meanwhile, at the regional level, Djibouti President and IGAD Chair Ismail Omar Guelleh <u>invited</u> member states of the East African bloc to an extraordinary summit in Uganda on the 18 January to discuss the ongoing conflict in Sudan. RSF has reportedly accepted the invitation to the meeting, while the Sudanese Government, reportedly <u>pulled out</u> of the talks. The Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs <u>denounced</u> the invitation extended to the commander of the RSF, noting that the invitation violates international law, disregards human rights abuses committed by the RSF across Sudan and sets a

dangerous precedent. Lt. Gen. Al Burhan's rejection of IGAD's meeting also comes on the back of his criticism towards the UN, following a call held between Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Lt. Gen. Dagalo.

As reported by Lt. Gen. Dagalo, during the call he was able to brief the UN Secretary General on the situation in Sudan and the negative ramifications of the war. He further outlined RSF's vision for ending the war and initiating negotiations that can not only address the root cause of the crisis, but also support reconstruction efforts in Sudan in an effort to achieve security, stability and peace. Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Al-Sadiq voiced the Sudanese Government's disapproval of the call. The Minister also met with newly appointed UN Special Envoy for Sudan, Ramtane Lamamra, marking the envoy's first visit to the country since his December appointment. Following a number

of meetings held with both government representatives and civil society, the UN envoy expressed his optimism at the possibility of ending the conflict in Sudan.

Over the last week, an escalation of fighting was reported in and around Khartoum, with clashes continuing to be reported around Omdurman and Bahri. On 11 January, RSF reportedly gained ground in Omdurman. An escalation of fighting between SAF and RSF was also reported in River Nile and White Nile states - reportedly, RSF has withdrawn forces from Wad Madani moving into White Nile where intense fighting between SAF and RSF was reported. Meanwhile, SAF scaled up its aerial and artillery attacks in Nyala (South Darfur) and East Nile. Fighting between RAF and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement – North/Al Hilu (SPLM-N/AH) in Dilling, South Kordofan, also escalated, as SPLM-N/AH claimed control of the town last week. Clashes between RSF and SPLM-N/AH also extended to North Kordofan. On 10 January, the Eastern Sudan Civil Forces Alliance renewed its call to SAF and SRF to not extend the conflict to the East of the country and to keep civilians safe.

DTM Sudan estimated that **6,055,749** individuals (1,206,376 Households) were recently internally displaced. The internally displaced persons (IDP) caseload was observed in 6,355 locations across all of Sudan's 18 states. The highest proportions of IDPs were observed across South Darfur (12%), River Nile (11%), East Darfur (11%), White Nile (8%), Aj Jazirah (8%), and North Darfur (8%). Field teams reported that the IDPs were originally displaced from twelve states. The majority (59%) were reportedly displaced from Khartoum state; followed by South Darfur (15%), North Darfur (8%), Aj Jazirah (8%), Central Darfur (4%), West Darfur (3%), East Darfur (1%), South Kordofan (1%), North Kordofan (1%), West Kordofan (<1%), Sennar (<1%), and White Nile (<1%).

In addition to the internal displacement, the conflict in Sudan has caused the mixed cross border movements of **1,686,884** individuals into neighbouring countries namely: Egypt, Libya, Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Ethiopia. Sixty-three per cent of arrivals tracked in those countries were Sudanese nationals and 37 per cent were estimated to be foreign nationals and returnees. The majority of arrivals were reported in Chad (38%), South Sudan (30%), and Egypt (25%).

Whilst the war in Sudan continues to have a devastating impact on the people of Sudan, especially with the expansion of the war to the country's most important regions for crop production, the wider regional impact of the conflict on neighbouring countries cannot be ignored. On 11 January, President Kiir of South Sudan <u>ordered</u> a crackdown on illicit movement and activities along the country's border with Sudan in an effort to mitigate the escalation of communal tensions in Bahar El Gazhal. These strong measures, come on the back of an exponential increase in arrivals into South

Sudan, with approximately, 60,166 people entering South Sudan during the past month alone, following the clashes in Wad Meadani. In Chad, the leading telecommunication provider, Sudachad, reportedly came under a <u>cyber attack</u> from hacking group Anonymous Sudan, for their alleged links to RSF.

To mitigate the potential risk of destabilizing the region further and extension of the conflict to all regions in Sudan, there is an urgent need to find a resolution to the conflict and ensure that those most in need in both Sudan and neighbouring countries are reached with humanitarian assistance. "Fighting in Sudan must immediately end to enable people rebuild their lives with dignity. We must not turn our back on the suffering of millions of people affected by such devastating conflict," IOM Director General, Amy Pope said following her recent visit to Eastern Chad and saw first-hand the impact of the conflict on displaced people. "Now, more than ever, we need all possible support to continue providing lifesaving humanitarian assistance and move towards recovery and long-term solutions," DG Pope said.

IOM RESPONSE OVERVIEW

SUDAN

598,690 INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED SINCE THE ONSET OF THE CRISIS







53.489 INDIVIDUALS

Since the conflict erupted on 15 April, IOM has assisted 598,690 crisis-affected individuals across Sudan. This assistance includes the distribution of emergency shelter and non-food items to 106,286 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 31,618 individuals benefitted from the distribution of hygiene kits and another 389,368 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 53,489 individuals and nutrition support to 1,789 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 3,744 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 solarpowered 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 41,909 households have received multi-purpose cash assistance, while IOM provided tailored in-kind assistance to 5,195 individuals in extremely vulnerable situations. Another individuals benefited so far from construction of community infrastructure (such as roads, markets, health and community centers) and 139 returnees have so far received livelihoods assistance.

Since April 15, 183 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 282 refugees from Sudan to Canada and the United States. Another 44 individuals have also been assisted to reunite with their families in Belgium, Canada, the United Kingdom and the USA.

In addition, through the Rapid Response Fund mechanism, IOM's partners have reached 392,249 direct beneficiaries in Sudan with ES/NFI, WASH, Health, FSL and Protection interventions so far.

The recent spread conflict into parts of Central and Eastern Sudan has significantly increased humanitarian needs. Food insecurity is expected to rise as the harvest season (December -January) is severely impacted by the ongoing clashes and displacement, with around 17.7 million people (37% of the



Mobile clinic providing health services in White Nile state @IOM Sudan 2024

population) already into high levels of acute food insecurity as reported by OCHA. Targeted interventions are urgently needed, such as agriculture initiatives for winter cropping and income-generating activities, to mitigate the impact of the conflict on food security and increase resilience of affected communities.

SOUTH SUDAN

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 303.827

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED WITH 253,827 OTA

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS REACHED WITH 155.000 PROTECTION SERVICES

As of 14 January, 501,943 individuals have been recorded as arriving in South Sudan from Sudan (88,127 Sudanese and 413,816 non-Sudanese), a major increase of 20,827 individuals from last reporting.

Since the start of the crisis, 303,827 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), and in Aj Jazirah states in Sudan. IOM is also supporting cholera preparedness with the construction of the Cholera Treatment Center (CTC) in Malakal town. South Sudan DTM and teams deployed at points of entry (PoEs) have registered and conducted verifications for all new arrivals benefitting from Onward Transportation Assistance (OTA), and identified 4,613 vulnerable individuals to access services as priority.

In the past week, OTA was provided to 17,995 individuals, by boat (3,326 by boat vouchers) from Renk to Malakal, by IOM chartered flights (1,804 on 30 flights) from Renk to Malakal, and by road (12,865 by buses) from Joda border crossing to Renk.

IOM continues to deliver humanitarian relief, recovery and peace building services and remains one of the largest service providers in Abyei. Access constraints due to terrain in the rainy season and unpredictable security situation together with shortage of resources to sustain effective operations remain key challenges.

The recent takeover of Wad Madani in Sudan by the RSF has caused the displacement of more than 500,000 people so far, with some transiting across the border through Renk border crossing point and subsequently onward to Bulukat transit center. IOM is expecting further increase of people crossing into South Sudan as fighting continues in Aj Jazirah, Sennar and

White Nile states. IOM continues to monitor the situation and is increasing the number of chartered flights to avoid congestion in the TC.



CHAD

78,406

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED

16,989

INDIVIDUALS BENIFITTING FROM TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS

As of 11 January, 633,569 individuals have been recorded as arriving in Chad from Sudan (496,834 Sudanese and 136,735 non-Sudanese), an increase of 17,518 individuals since last reporting period.

Since April 2023, IOM has registered 93,701 Chadian returnees (67% children) and has also identified 346 TCNs previously living in Sudan. IOM estimates that 136,735 returnees have crossed into Chad from Sudan. Since last week, many new arrivals have been reported in Wadi Fira, and IOM will proceed with their registration. IOM is currently conducting Return and Intention Surveys and Village Assessment Surveys in Ouaddaï and Sila provinces. To date, IOM has reached 78,406 individuals in those sites, including 29,287 with MPCA, 8,324 with transportation/relocation assistance, 16,989 with transitional shelter, 40,500 with NFIs and 44,014 with WASH.

IOM continues to coordinate WASH services in Tongori and Deguessa, with partners including UNICEF, MSF, Concern Worldwide, LWF and LMI, and is constructing 187 bloc latrines and showers in Tongori.

Protection activities are ongoing in the different sites, including development of a referral system, regular meetings with site committees and sensitizations on GBV, MHPSS and other protection issues, and psychosocial activities in Deguessa for newly arrived households.

IOM's Director General, Amy Pope, visited the Tongori site last week and highlighted the need for sustained assistance to the returnee populations and local communities alike, in addition for the need to increase humanitarian partners' capacities to deliver assistance in Eastern Chad and in the Darfur region of Sudan through cross-border activities. The arrival rates of Chadian returnees continue to rapidly increase in regions bordering Darfur; public services need to be reinforced in the border regions, including education, health care, shelter, and protection. Investments in transition, stabilization and livelihood need to start, particularly on returnees' sites.

ETHIOPIA

441

INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED THIS WEEK THROUGH MRCs

1,472

PROVIDED THIS WEEK WITH MHPSS SERVICES

As of 14 January, 104,997 individuals have been recorded as arriving in Ethiopia from Sudan (44,138 Sudanese and 60,859 non-Sudanese). During the last week, DTM reports that 1,594 individuals have crossed the border into Ethiopia through the Metema PoE (1,102 refugees, 474 returnees and 18 TCNs); IOM has facilitated the movement of 279 individuals from the PoE to the transit camp, another sharp increase since previous week. Inflows for Sudanese has significantly increase mainly due to the resumption of immigration services by Sudanese immigration and to the escalation of fighting in Sudan, particularly in Aj Jazirah state.

As part of its health and nutrition response at Metema, IOM provided MHPSS services to 1,472 individuals. To mitigate the increasing health risks at the Metema PoE, IOM conducted medical consultations for 463 individuals and, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), conducted 1,614 medical screenings at the PoE, with top three conditions being upper respiratory tract infection, acute febrile illness and acute gastroenteritis. In addition, a total of 337 returnees, refugees and TCNs were screened for malnutrition, with no case reported this week.

At IOM's Migration Response Centre (MRC), 401 individuals have been assisted. In addition, 428 Ethiopian returnees received OTA assistance, 345 towards Addis Ababa and 68 towards Gonder town.

EGYPT

44,306

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED

10,908

INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED WITH CBI

The latest update on arrival figures from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs dates to 31 December, and records more than 415,000 individuals (400,000 Sudanese, 6,000 Egyptian returnees, and 9,000TCNs) as having crossed into Egypt from Sudan.

To date, IOM Egypt has assisted a total of 44,306 individuals, of which 10,908 have received cash-based interventions (MPCA, housing), 18,611 with NFIs, 18,141 with Health services, 1,770 with food assistance, 1,602 with education assistance and 186 with voluntary humanitarian return. Over the past week, IOM has reached an additional 193 individuals with cash-based assistance.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

4,746 TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED

As of 25 December 2023, a total of 25,836 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 (an estimated 88% of which are women and children). This includes 21,135 Sudanese asylum seekers, and 4,701 returnees. Of the total number of recorded arrivals, 2,886 were relocated from Am Dafock to Birao (Korsi site) by UNHCR and local authorities, or by their own efforts. IOM continues to strengthen its presence in Birao, and has so far provided psychological first aid to 300 returnees and 185 refugees, conducting two capacity-building workshops for 61

members of the Birao community protection network, and distributing dignity kits to 643 households (reaching 3,215 individuals). IOM has assisted a total of 4,746 individuals so far.

LIBYA

As of 14 January, DTM Libya observed 5,539 arrivals (4,468 Sudanese and 1,071 TCNs), marking an increase of 214 individuals from last week. Of the Sudanese migrants, 2,452 arrived indirectly from Chad (1,012 in Al Kufra, 940 in Algatroun, and 500 in Om El Araneb), and 2,016 of which arrived from Sudan directly via Northern State and North Darfur. Additionally, to date DTM has recorded the arrival of 600 Libyan returnees and 471 TCNs from Sudan.



MPCA for pregnant and lactating displaced mothers © IOM South Sudan 2024

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