# OPERATIONAL UPDATE

NO. 14



Arrival of critical medical supplies and medicines to West Darfur via cross-border operations from Chad. © IOM SUDAN 2024

### HIGHLIGHTS

In response to the armed conflict that erupted in April 2023, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) remains committed to stay and help the people of Sudan. During the past week, we have:

- Delivered critical medical supplies and medicines to Geneina and Kerenik localities in West Darfur, which will benefit **8,000 individuals**. This delivery was made through our implementing partner, Concern Worldwide, for distribution to health facilities as part of our ongoing cross-border operations from Chad.
- Distributed hygiene kits reaching **3,966** households in Mornei (West Darfur), encompassing both the town and nomadic villages, and **1,110** households in Sirba town (West Darfur) through our cross-border operations.
- Supported the resettlement of 35 refugees to Canada, 3 camp-based refugees to Sweden from Port Sudan and assisted the voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) of 10 returnees to Ethiopia and 3 returnees to Somalia by ground transportation from Gedaref.
- Initiated borehole drilling to provide clean water access for 5,000 to 7,000 individuals, benefiting both host communities and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sennar state, who have fled from Aj Jazirah state.
- Formed two project committees of flood-affected local households in River Nile state to prepare for community-led agricultural support activities, following feasibility and market assessments in the primary market of Atbara.
- Published the <u>20<sup>th</sup> Weekly Displacement Snapshot</u> by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) with insights into those displaced since 15 April 2023.

One in every eight internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world is in Sudan. With the highest number of internally displaced people globally, the situation in Sudan is dire. Urgent action is needed to reach ALL in need.

14 February 2024

#### **KEY FIGURES**



24.8 million PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN SUDAN

6,217,222 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs) (SINCE 15 APRIL 2023)

1,803,213 CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS RECORDED (SINCE 15 APRIL 2023)

**1.2 million** PEOPLE REACHED IN SUDAN

6,709 LOCATIONS DISPLACED PEOPLE FLED INTO

18 STATES REACHED IN SUDAN

#### FUNDING (AS OF 14 FEBRUARY 2024)



Your donation can help provide life-saving aid such as food, water, shelter, and medical supplies to those who need it the most. Every little helps.

DONATE NOW

### **OPERATIONAL CONTEXT**

Sudan remains the largest displacement in the world, with a staggering 10.8 million people affected, including nine million within the country. Armed clashes over the past nine months have uprooted 6.1 million people, adding to the three million people already displaced within Sudan. One in every eight internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world is in Sudan.

#### SITUATION

The conflict that broke out on 15 April 2023, between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continues to inflict devastating consequences on millions of civilians in Sudan, with half of the population (24.8 million people), estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. UN human rights expert on Sudan <u>calls for urgent action on the dismal human rights situation as conflict</u> <u>soon enters 10th month</u>.

The situation in Sudan is dire. The humanitarian crisis has left 37 per cent of Sudan's population, <u>nearly 18 million people facing severe</u> <u>food insecurity</u>. Additionally, **65 per cent** of the population **lack access to healthcare**, and **70-80 per cent** of hospitals in conflict zones are non-functional, intensifying the health crisis. Health challenges persist with close to 10,500 suspected cholera cases, including 292 associated deaths, were reported as of 31 January 2024 from 60 localities across 11 states. While cases appear to show a decreasing trend overall, the actual number of cases and deaths may be much higher. Acute hunger and malnutrition will have a lasting generational impact on the health of the population. They also increase vulnerable groups' risk of medical complications and death from disease outbreaks. In addition, the **lack of basic healthcare services and medications** is having fatal consequences among especially among vulnerable groups, in particular those grappling with severe malnutrition and enduring chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, kidney failure, and cancer. Moreover, pregnant women and children are facing increased risk of illness and death due to the interruptions in maternal and child healthcare provisions, including access to **life-saving childhood vaccinations**.

In addition, natural hazards and the effects of environmental degradation as a result of climate change, continue to drive humanitarian needs and increase conflict over limited resources, disproportionately affecting displaced populations and vulnerable communities, creating new or secondary displacements, and making sustainable returns and community stabilization challenging, especially against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict. The looting of humanitarian supplies further jeopardizes relief efforts, hindering the timely delivery of essential aid to those in need. The multifaceted challenges underscore the need for sustained international support to address the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and mitigate further suffering among the affected population.

The worsening situation in Sudan has significant impacts for neighboring countries, many of which are already dealing with prolonged crises. Sudan shares borders with seven countries across three regions and plays an important role in migration, serving as a crossroads between countries in East and the Horn of Africa, Libya, and Egypt, particularly along the Central Mediterranean route. It serves as a passage for migrants heading towards the Gulf through the Northern route. The outbreak of the crisis in Sudan has caused the Mixed Cross-Border Movements of more than 1.8 million people (including asylum seekers/refugees, returnees and third country nationals) have <u>fled into neighboring countries</u>, with Chad (39%), South Sudan (31%), and Egypt (23%). Cross-border movements are rapidly increasing, particularly towards South Sudan, Ethiopia and Chad, putting pressure on already limited capacities to provide humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected populations.



Construction of latrines is underway to provide access to hygiene and sanitation infrastructure in IDP gathering sites in Sennar state. © IOM SUDAN 2024

### **OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

#### DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tracks, monitors and analyzes displacement and population mobility to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations across all states in Sudan.

Since 15 April, DTM has published 18 situation reports, 20 weekly displacement snapshots, 5 monthly displacement overviews, 160 early warning flash reports, one focused flash alert and 40 datasets that can be found <u>here.</u>

#### SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

IOM has distributed emergency shelter (ES) and non-food items (NFI) to 121,862 people, in Aj Jazirah, Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, North Darfur, North Kordofan, Red Sea and South Kordofan states since the conflict erupted.

As part of IOM's common pipeline mechanism, 139 containers with relief items have been received in Port Sudan with another 61 containers en route to Sudan. The items are being delivered to humanitarian partners to for distributions across Sudan.

#### WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

Since 15 April, IOM has reached 911,585 people, through WASH interventions, including distributions of hygiene kits and other WASH supplies, construction and rehabilitation of water points and sanitation facilities, in addition to hygiene and garbage collection campaigns in Aj Jazirah, Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, Khartoum, North Darfur, Northern, Red Sea, South and West Kordofan states.

#### HEALTH AND NUTRITION

IOM has provided primary health services and specialized healthcare to 73,840 people and nutrition assistance to 2,401 people in IDP and refugee camps and gathering sites, reception and transit centres, at points of entry and key migration routes, and host communities since the conflict began.

The assistance is provided through eight static health facilities, four mobile clinics, two MRRCs, and a Migration Health Assessment Centre in Aj Jazirah, Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, Northern, Red Sea and White Nile states as well as Northern Abyei PCA North.

#### FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS (FSL)

IOM is currently supporting community-led agriculture initiatives for winter cropping and other income-generating activities in Aj Jazirah, Blue Nile and Gedaref states targeting 600 households.

As part of its protection assistance, IOM also provided food support to 13,752 migrants in extremely vulnerable situations.

#### CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

To increase the ability of crisis-affected communities to meet their basic needs in a way that is most suited to their preferences, IOM has provided cash assistance to 49,230 households in Sudan. IOM also provides grants to community-based organizations (CBOs) as seed funding for livelihoods and other life-sustaining activities.



#### RAPID RESPONSE FUND (RRF)

The <u>RRF</u> provides a streamlined and flexible grant application and disbursement process to finance the localized and life-saving emergency response. Through the RRF, IOM and its partners have so far reached **392,249 people** in Sudan through ES, NFI, WASH, Health, Nutrition, FSL, CBI, MHPSS and Protection interventions.

#### MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

IOM has so far reached 5,890 people with psychological first aid (PFA) and other MHPSS services in Aj Jazirah, Gedaref, Kassala, Khartoum, Red Sea, Sennar, North Darfur, South Kordofan, West Darfur, West Kordofan, and White Nile states. The assistance includes group and individual counselling, psychoeducational sessions on stress management, and referrals to specialized care.

#### **CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS**

IOM has so far, through cross-border operations, provided 5 trucks with 3,300 hygiene kits, reaching 19,800 individuals in Wadi Halfa (Northern state) through Egypt, and 14 trucks with 13,700 hygiene kits reaching 82,200 individuals in Ardamata and Mornei (West Darfur state) through Chad. And now medical supplies benefiting 8,000 individuals.

#### PROTECTION

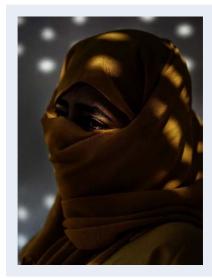
Since 15 April, IOM has reached 63,981 people with protection assistance through IOM's MRRCs, mobile clinics, and partners. Assistance includes vulnerability assessments, case management, tailored cash/in-kind support, information sessions, and referrals to specialized services, as needed. IOM also supports its beneficiaries to obtain identity documents, legal counseling on land and property rights, and representation in court IOM.

#### MOVEMENT ASSISTANCE

IOM has assisted migrants stranded by the ongoing conflict to return to their countries of origin. In coordination with UNHCR, IOM resettled refugees in Canada, United States and Sweden, in addition to assisting an unaccompanied minor to reunite with his family in Belgium. Additionally, IOM assisted people to be reunited with their families in the United Kingdom and Canada. IOM also provides humanitarian transportation to stranded migrants, refugees and IDPs who lack the means to leave conflict zones or areas of extreme hardship.

#### HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT

IOM supports frontline workers in responding to the increased pressure at border crossings. This includes the training of border officials in rights-based humanitarian border management, protection, identification of potential victims of trafficking and referral of vulnerable migrants, as well as rapid needs assessments.



## QUOTE

"I went to bed on a normal night and woke up to war."

- Sara, a Sudanese mother of four, was forced to flee her home when fighting erupted in Sudan.

### **KEY ADVOCACY POINTS**

- The telecommunications disruptions in Sudan are blocking millions from sending and receiving funds, hindering critical humanitarian efforts, and **denying access to life-saving information**. Immediate action is needed to restore connectivity and address these urgent needs.
- Food insecurity is expecting to rise as the harvest season is severely impacted by the ongoing clashes and displacement. 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.
- Funding is urgently needed for IOM to maintain its operational presence and continued critical humanitarian support in the first half of 2024. Half of the population of Sudan needs urgent humanitarian assistance.
- Aid investment is also required in neighbouring countries, for returnees, border and host communities, to mitigate the impact of the crisis on local populations and to **avoid a regional spillover** of the conflict.
- Urgent action is fundamental to deliver aid, including hardto-reach or inaccessible areas where 11 million people are estimated to be living. The pressing needs of the population require immediate and unhindered access for effective and safe delivery of humanitarian assistance.



There is urgent need to scale up humanitarian response to reach the most vulnerable in Sudan. IOM is on the ground to respond to these needs but more needs to be done!



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