

REGIONAL SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE

SITUATION UPDATE 22 FEBRUARY 2024

8 million

DISPLACED PERSONS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE SUDAN

6.2 million

RECENTLY INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN SUDAN

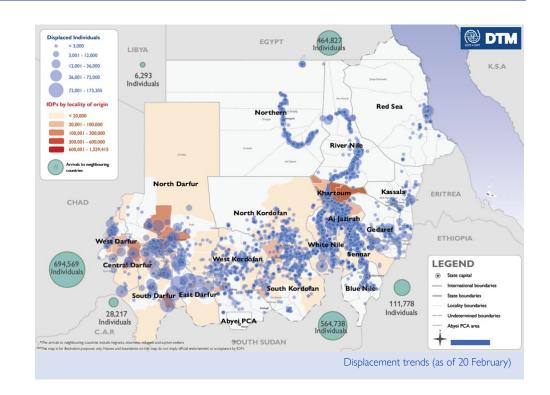
1.8 million

CROSSED TO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

1.7 million

PEOPLE REACHED BY IOM IN SUDAN AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Since 15 April 2023



HIGHLIGHTS

During the reporting period, IOM continued providing critically needed humanitarian assistance in Sudan and neighbouring countries:

- In Sudan, IOM distributed 729 hygiene kits through a local partner in Port Sudan, reaching IDPs in secondary displacement from Aj Jazirah state, and provided cash assistance to 17 vulnerable migrants in the same location to cover immediate needs.
- In Chad, IOM distributed 511 NFI kits to 3,167 returnees in Tissi Department where an estimated 10,000 individuals arrived recently, in addition to relocation and shelter support to Tongori. The Farchana humanitarian hub set-up by IOM for cross-border operations from Eastern Chad into Sudan is now operational.
- In South Sudan, IOM continued providing onward transportation assistance (OTA) to returnees, assisting 16,242 new arrivals. IOM also provided 25,475 health care services to returnee population during OTA and in transit centers, and started construction of a Cholera Treatment Center in Assosa.
- In Ethiopia, IOM transported 494 migrants from PoE to the transit camp, and 444 refugees from the transit camp to the new UNHCR Awlala camp.
- In Egypt, IOM supported the Ministry of Health through donations of supplies and equipment, and trainings; in addition to providing 29 school kits to Sudanese students in Alexandria.
- In CAR, IOM has resumed its flow monitoring activities at the border due to increased influx of arrivals from Sudan.

- In Libya, IOM conducted an assessment with Sudanese communities and partners in the East (Al Kufra) to shed light on alleged numbers of migrants, with initial findings confirming the current numbers being reported by DTM.
- IOM DTM released its <u>21st Weekly Displacement Snapshot</u>.

The escalation of fighting in southeastern Sudan poses a significant threat to national food security and increases the likelihood of food shortages. This crisis not only exacerbates food insecurity but also serves as a significant driver of migration and displacement, amplifying the vulnerabilities of people already on the move. The UN estimates that about <u>18 million people are facing emergency levels of hunger</u> – double the figure from last year.

OTA remains a critical intervention to decongest border crossing points and provide safe and dignified humanitarian services in transit centers, particularly in South Sudan and Ethiopia; however IOM could soon run out of funds to continue this critical service. Water, sanitation and healthcare are concerns in all locations, particularly in face of rising reporting cases of cholera and associated deaths.

The prolonged conflict in Sudan has resulted in protracted displacement, with communities enduring years of instability, loss, and trauma. Protracted displacement exacerbates vulnerabilities, disrupts livelihoods, and strains host communities. IOM recognizes the necessity for heightened focus on the long-term needs of displaced populations, including psychosocial support, education, and livelihood opportunities, aimed at promoting community resilience and self-reliance.

CONTACTS

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SITUATION OVERVIEW

Sudan remains the largest displacement crisis in the world, with a staggering 11 million people displaced by the conflicts inside and outside of the country, including 9.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Armed clashes over the past ten months caused the displacement of 6,270,676 people, in addition to the three million already displaced before 15 April 2023. As of 20 February, 1,871,422 people had also crossed into neighbouring countries, with the majority in Chad (37%), South Sudan (30%) and Egypt (25%).

With the 37th African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa on 17 and 18 February, many African leaders took the opportunity to meet and discuss the situation in Sudan and how to end the conflict. An American delegation participating in the event also took the opportunity to meet with leaders of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to discuss ways to resolve the conflict in Sudan. Meanwhile, the Coordination of the Democratic and Civil Forces (CCDF) held meetings with senior officials of IGAD, the UN, African leaders, international institutions and Norwegian officials.

A year after the conflict, on 15 April 2024, France and the EU are set to chair an international humanitarian conference for Sudan and neighbouring countries. The conference will aim to raise funds to support Sudan's civilian populations, call for the respect of international humanitarian law by the warring parties, and advocate for safe and unhindered humanitarian access.

Whilst fighting continues across much of the country, especially Khartoum, Omdurman, the Kordofans and North Darfur, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have stated that they will not engage in negotiations or consider a ceasefire with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) unless the rebel militia fulfils its commitment outlined in the Jeddah Agreement to vacate citizens' homes and service institutions. The last couple of days also saw an increase in air strikes on East Darfur, specifically targeting the town of Ed Dein. More recently, RSF commander has reportedly urged the international community to increase aid to affected regions and reiterated his commitment to collaborate with international organizations and ensure the unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects that Sudan's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is likely to reduce by 18.3 per cent in 2024, after a reduction of 12 per cent in 2023 (World Bank). Since the conflict started, key industrial and economic activities have been damaged or destroyed, leading to a collapse in economic activity — including commerce, financial, and information and communications technology services. The situation is expected to further deteriorate as attacks by Houthi forces against ships in the Red Sea are reportedly holding up shipments of humanitarian aid to Sudan, driving up costs. On-going telecommunications and internet blackout continue across many areas of the country and are causing a severe cash crisis.

IOM calls on all parties to ensure the safety of humanitarians and allow their unrestricted access to be able to assist those most vulnerable. <u>IOM's 2024 Response Overview</u> 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.



IOM RESPONSE OVERVIEW

SUDAN

1,178,959 TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS REACHED

Since the conflict erupted on 15 April, 1,178,959 crisis-affected individuals have been assisted by IOM in Sudan.

- 121,862 crisis-affected individuals received emergency shelter and non-food items in Aj Jazirah, Blue Nile, East Darfur, Gedaref, Kassala, North Darfur, North Kordofan, Red Sea, River Nile, South Kordofan and West Darfur states;
- 168,479 individuals received hygiene kits, and 911,585 individuals other diverse WASH items in the Red Sea, Northern, Gedaref, South Kordofan, and West Darfur states;
- 73,840 individuals benefitted from emergency health assistance and 2,401 from nutrition support through eight health facilities (Aj Jazirah, Blue Nile, Northern and Sennar states, and Abyei PCA North), mobile outreach to hard-to -reach communities, and two Migrant Resource and Response Centers (MRRCs) in Gedaref and Kassala;
- 5,890 displacement-affected individuals were provided with mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS);
- 55,801 individuals received protection assistance 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;
- 49,230 households received multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA);
- 16,008 individuals benefitted from the construction of community infrastructures (such as roads, markets, health and community centers);
- 221 stranded migrants returned to their country of origin through voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) assistance, while six at-risk individuals received humanitarian transportation assistance within Sudan;
- In close collaboration with UNHCR, IOM also resettled 355 refugees from Sudan to Canada and the United States. Another 53 individuals have also been assisted to reunite with their families in Belgium, Canada, the United Kingdom and 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.



Distribution of NFI kits to IDPs in Sennar State @IOM Sudan 2024

SOUTH SUDAN

344,112

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS REACHED

A total of 564,738 individuals have been recorded as arriving in South Sudan from Sudan (20% Sudanese and 80% non-Sudanese), an increase of 22,539 individuals from last reporting.

Since the start of the crisis, IOM in South Sudan has assisted 344,112 individuals.

- 298,117 individuals received OTA from PoEs to Renk, and from Renk to Malakal, by road transportation, boat and chartered flights, complemented by protection, cash, MHPSS, health and referral services;
- 20,015 individuals reached with MHPSS, and 182,887 with Protection services;
- 501,554 individuals received health care services (returnees, refugees and host communities);
- 155,002 individuals reached through CCCM in transit camps, and constructed 30 communal shelters and rehabilitated 8 existing ones on those sites.

IOM continues to deliver humanitarian relief, recovery and peace building services and remains one of the largest service providers in South Sudan. IOM and partners are closely following the humanitarian situation in Abyei following the recent clashes; increased peacebuilding activities will be needed



in this area to avoid escalation and further displacements, in addition to the pre-positioning of emergency shelter and relief items.



DTM staff assisting returnees during OTA in Malakal @IOM South Sudan 2024

CHAD

84,156

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS REACHED

A total of 694,569 individuals have been recorded as arriving in Chad from Sudan (80% Sudanese and 20% non-Sudanese), and increase of 12,070 since last reporting period.

Since April 2023, IOM has reached 84,156 individuals in Chad, mainly in Ouaddaï and Sila provinces.

- 11,466 individuals assisted with relocation/transportation to safer sites in Tongori and Deguessa;
- 32,516 individuals received with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA);
- 17,202 individuals assisted with transitional shelter, 36,058 with NFIs and 45,053 with WASH in the supported sites;
- 10,989 people benefitting from protection services and a protection referral system, regular meetings with communities and regular sensitization activities on GBV, MHPSS and protection in Deguessa put in place for newly arrived households;
- A community center constructed and operationnal in the Tongori site;

IOM has completed the construction of the interagency Humanitarian Hub in Farchana (Ouaddaï province), to be used by UN agencies and humanitarian partners to increase capacities in delivering assistance through cross-border operations into Darfur region of Sudan. To date, IOM has registered 96,251 Chadian returnees (67% children) and has also identified 356 TCNs previously living in Sudan, 36 of which were assisted to return to their country of origin. Return and Intention Surveys, and Village Assessment Surveys in Ouaddaï and Sila provinces have been completed and results are being analyzed, before sharing with partners.

ETHIOPIA

53,821

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS REACHED

A total of 108,121 individuals have been recorded as arriving in Ethiopia from Sudan (43% Sudanese and 57% non-Sudanese).

During the reporting period, IOM continued to provide health, WASH, protection and MHPSS assistance as part of its multisectoral response to the Sudan crisis, in addition to:

- 494 individuals transported from PoE to transit camp, and 444 individuals transported from transit camp to the newly established Awlala refugee camp;
- 3,165 individuals provided with MHPSS services, and 209 received sexual and reproductive health services, and counselling to pregnant women on birth preparedness;
- 1,044 individuals received medical consultations and 3,467 were medically screened at PoEs in collaboration with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute; malnutrition screenings were also conducted, with 6 cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition and one of Severe Acute Malnutrition reported and referred for further treatment;
- 2,471 individuals reached with awareness raising on risks of cholera and other communicable diseases;
- 854 reached in MRCs with protection assistance, of which 19 were referred for further specialized assistance;
- 11 TCNs supported with voluntary humanitarian return services and continue liaising with Embassies and host countries for specific cases, including in Yemen and Syria;

While IOM continues to provide support at PoEs, the restriction on cash withdrawals, increased protection concerns, and shortage of food needs strengthened monitoring to ensure safety and dignity of affected populations.



EGYPT

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44,577
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TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS REACHED

The latest update on arrival figures from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs dates to 31 January, and records more than 464,827 individuals (97% Sudanese and 3% non-Sudanese) as having crossed into Egypt from Sudan.

To date, IOM Egypt has assisted a total of 44,577 individuals.

- 11,194 individuals provided with cash assistance (MPCA, housing);
- 1,313 individuals assisted with Protection services;
- 4,541 individuals provided with shelter/NFI services;
- 18,988 people assisted with Health and nutrition services;
- 3,512 individuals received food security assistance;
- 10,269 individuals benefitting from improved WASH services.
- 186 persons assisted with voluntary humanitarian return (VHR).

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

4,511

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS REACHED

A total of 28,217 individuals are recorded as having arrived in CAR from Sudan (78% Sudanese, 22% non-Sudanese), an increase 1,796 individuals from the last reporting period. Most arrived in the Am Dafock PoE, an estimated 88% of which are women and children. Arrivals relocated from Am Dafock to

Birao (Korsi site) by UNHCR and local authorities, or by their own efforts. Due to the recent new waves of arrivals from Sudan, IOM has resumed its flow monitoring activities at the Am Dafock border crossing point and has trained enumerators, in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees.

So far, IOM has assisted 4,511 people with MHPSS (487), WASH (3,215), Protection (296) and PSEA awareness (748) services.

LIBYA

6,293

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS REACHED

A total of 6,293 arrivals (83% of Sudanese and 17% non-Sudanese) have been registered by IOM DTM in Libya, arriving directly from Sudan via Northern State and North Darfur, or indirectly via Chad. To date DTM has recorded the arrival of 600 Libyan returnees and 471 TCNs from Sudan. IOM conducted an assessment on the Sudanese situation in the East, with a focus on the city of Al Kufra, to shed lights on numbers and vulnerabilities of the Sudanese community in the area. Initial findings show that the Sudanese community in Al Kufra amounts to approximately 13,000 households/6,000 individuals, with key needs reported being NFIs, MHPSS, protection and referral services.

CURRENT RESPONSE DONORS:

