# OPERATIONAL UPDATE

NO. 20

9 April 2024



# HIGHLIGHTS

In response to the armed conflict that erupted on 15 April 2023, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) remains committed to stay and help the people of Sudan. During the past week, we have:

- Distributed 3,000 hygiene kits, reaching approximately 18,000 individuals, in Gedaref state.
- Conducted a hygiene promotion and cleaning campaign, in partnership with Elamar Charitable Development Organization (ECDO), in Wad Medani, Alkubra and Almanaqil localities (Aj Jazirah state), reaching 104,238 individuals.
- Organized a community-based planning workshop for implementing partners through IOM's Migrant Resource and Response Centre (MRRC) in Kassala state. A total of 19 participants (10 men and 9 women) participated in the 2day workshop.
- Completed the drilling and solarization of a borehole in Shandi Fog, Sinja, giving 2,300 individuals in Sennar state access to water.
- Delivered a shipment of 12 buckets of chlorine powder, 5 dosing pumps, and 2 submersible pumps to the State Water Corporation in Sennar state.
- Organized a review and evaluation session for IOM's MHPSS Volunteer Network to discuss the achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and initiate the drafting of a network workplan for the Network in Kassala state.
- Assisted 18 stranded migrants with transportation from Kassala to Gedaref, then across to Ethiopian border to Metema, where IOM Ethiopia continued to provide assistance, including their onward transportation to their communities of origin.
- Published the <u>25<sup>th</sup> Weekly Displacement Snapshot</u>, by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), with insights into those displaced since 15 April 2023.

# **KEY FIGURES**



24.8 million PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN SUDAN

6,622,565 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs) (SINCE 15 APRIL 2023)

## 2,031,858

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS RECORDED (SINCE 15 APRIL 2023)

#### 1.6 million

PEOPLE REACHED BY IOM IN SUDAN (SINCE 15 APRIL 2023)

1 in every 8 IDPS WORLDWIDE IS IN SUDAN

#### FUNDING (As of 9 April 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**

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. Sudan is the largest displacement crisis globally, with over 11 million individuals displaced, both inside and outside the country.

#### SITUATION

As the crisis in Sudan approaches the one-year mark, the need for humanitarian assistance grows deeper and wider. It is estimated that <u>half of the population</u> (24.8 million people) are in need of some form of assistance, while <u>more than one third</u> of the population (18 million) are facing acute insecurity. Prior to the current conflict, Sudan already hosted an estimated 3.8 million IDPs, many of whom have since experienced secondary or tertiary displacement during the last year of conflict. When accounting for both those displaced before and after 15 April 2023, <u>Sudan represents the largest displacement crisis</u> worldwide. In terms of global displacement figures, nearly 1 in every 8 IDP worldwide is Sudanese, and Sudan hosts approximately 13 per cent of all IDPs globally.

World Health Day, 7 April 2024, marks an important point of reflection to some of the health issues within the country. According to WHO, approximately 25 per cent of hospitals, and 70-80 per cent of health facilities overall, in Sudan are not functioning due to the ongoing conflict. The loss of infrastructure has led to at least <u>15 million people without access</u> to health care and overstretched facilities in areas with services, such as the 2-4 times increase of patients in Port Sudan. Moreover, the food security crisis remains the most pressing challenge facing Sudan, as there is a significant <u>risk of widespread famine</u> and IDP households continue to <u>rank food security as their top priority</u> moving forward. However, other challenges also persist in Sudan as the conflict continues for the twelfth consecutive month. The deepening health crisis and worsening food insecurity has led to fatality projections of 222,000 severely malnourished children and more than 7,000 new mothers if health and nutrition needs remain at present levels. One positive development, amidst the grim realities, is the reported <u>downward trajectory of cholera cases</u> in Sudan, as attributed to ongoing vaccination campaigns and increased prioritization of hygiene interventions by WASH cluster partners.

The deteriorating situation in Sudan has also had 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. Since the outbreak of the crisis, 2,031,858 million people have <u>fled into neighboring countries</u>, with Chad (36%), South Sudan (31%), and Egypt (25%). 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.



Sara Yahia, a displaced mother of two fled her home in Khartoum while pregnant to Gedaref in search of safety. © IOM SUDAN 2024

# **OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

# DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tracks, monitors and analyses 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, 25 weekly displacement snapshots, 7 monthly displacement overviews, 194 early warning flash reports, one focused flash alert and 48 datasets that can be found here.

### SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

IOM has distributed emergency shelter (ES) and non-food items (NFI), reaching 132,932 people, in Aj Jazirah, Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, North Darfur, North Kordofan, Red Sea, River Nile, Sennar, South Darfur, South Kordofan, West Darfur, and White Nile states since the conflict erupted.

As part of IOM's common pipeline mechanism, 169 containers with relief items have been received in Port Sudan with another 96 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 1,310,288 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.

IOM also provides capacity building to community healthcare workers and midwives, as well as conducts community-level health promotion and awareness raising about health risks.

### FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS (FSL)

IOM is currently providing community-based agricultural and pastoral livelihoods support and income generating activities in Sennar, Blue Nile, North Darfur, River Nile, White Nile, and Gedaref states targeting 7,872 individuals.

# 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 individuals 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 RRF 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 234,597 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 8,303 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, recreational days, and referrals to specialized care.

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

IOM has, so far through our cross-border operations, transported 16,500 NFI kits and 13,700 hygiene kits to the Darfur states via Chad. This is in addition to previously completed operations through Egypt, with at least 5 trucks with 3,300 hygiene kits, reaching 19,800 individuals in Wadi Halfa (Northern state).

### PROTECTION

Since 15 April, IOM has reached 35, 859 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, Australia, Sweden and the United States, 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.



Over 8,000 people in West Darfur received vital medicines. © IOM SUDAN 2024

"As an older woman without access to medicines for a long time, I felt forgotten and left on my own. Now, I have the medications I need and can save money for food. It's a relief and a blessing." -Mariam

Mariam from West Darfur who benefited from medical aid delivered through cross-border operations from Chad.

# **KEY ADVOCACY POINTS**

- Between 70-80 per cent of health facilities are out of service in Sudan, while providing lifesaving services in operational facilities is increasingly challenging due to insecurity, interrupted supply chains, and fuel shortages.
- Safe and unhindered access must be granted by all parties to the conflict, particularly in areas currently facing acute food insecurity and disease outbreaks, to bring urgent relief and mitigate the risk throughout the country.
- As localities across Sudan experience population increases due to the ongoing conflict, urgent assistance is needed not only for life-saving assistance, but also for transition and recovery initiatives, including for infrastructure, services, social cohesion, and food security and livelihoods (FSL).
- Inside Sudan, a majority of the population in need are in food insecure areas that remain inaccessible or only partially accessible to humanitarians. It is critical that reliable humanitarian corridors both cross line and cross border are established to enable unimpeded access to all populations in need.
- Accurate, timely and reliable data is required to enable humanitarian actors to allocate resources efficiently and address emerging challenges.
- IOM remains committed to **ensure that no one is left behind**, including IDPs, returnees, refugees, third-country nationals (TCNs), and other conflict-affected populations.



The crisis in Sudan has severely impacted critical health services. Insecurity, attacks on healthcare workers, access hurdles and shortages of essential medicines are taking a heavy toll on lives.

Since the onset of the crisis, IOM has provided primary and specialized healthcare to over 73,000 crisisaffected people across the country.

