

SUDAN CRISIS REGIONAL RESPONSE

SITUATION UPDATE | 20 MARCH 2025

REPORTING PERIOD 1-28 FEBRUARY

DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW WITH INTEGRATED PHASE CLASSIFICATION (IPC) LEVELS

KEY FIGURES



11.6M

INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN SUDAN
8.63M SINCE APRIL 2023

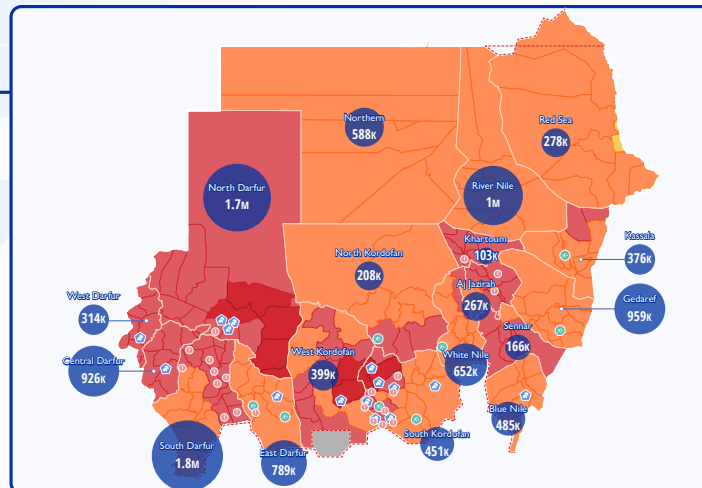
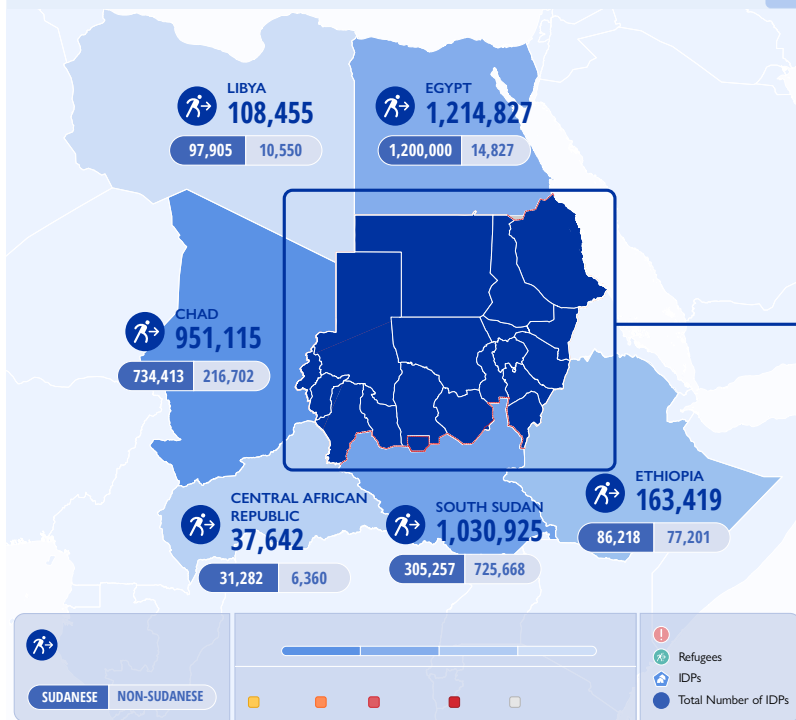


3.5M

MIXED CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS SINCE APRIL 2023

- 29% of IDPs displaced prior to the conflict experienced secondary displacement post 15 April 2023
- 53% children under 18-years-old

- 30% foreign nationals
- 70% Sudanese nationals



Displacement data as per DTM Sudan Mobility Update 15, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Feb 05 2025, DTM Sudan, IOM Sudan

HIGHLIGHTS

Over the month of February:



In Sudan, 32,500 individuals were assisted with Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item (ES/NFI) assistance and 51,600 individuals with WASH assistance, by distributing essential relief items through the Common Pipeline.



In South Sudan, 5,059 individuals were provided protection services, including prioritized access to specialized services and support, referrals, and awareness raising sessions on the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PSEAH) and gender-based violence.



In Chad, 860 individuals (200 households) were provided transitional shelters in Toumtouma.



In Ethiopia, 3,918 individuals were supported with health services.



In Egypt, 237 individuals received ES/NFI support.



In Libya, 2,906 individuals were provided with ES/NFI support through the distribution of NFIs and blankets.

FEB
107,097
PEOPLE REACHED
IN FEBRUARY

2025
181,997
PEOPLE REACHED
IN 2025

SINCE APRIL 2023
3.8M
PEOPLE REACHED
SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF
THE CRISIS IN APRIL 2023

Sudan is the largest displacement crisis in the world. More than 11.6 million people are internally displaced as per data published by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) on 5 February, with over half being children. An additional 3.5 million have crossed borders into neighbouring countries, with Egypt, South Sudan, and Chad reporting the highest numbers of arrivals since the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023. The country faces an unprecedented humanitarian crisis with half of Sudan's population – 30.4 million people - in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance.

In February, the fluidity of conflict frontlines influenced displacement and mobility dynamics within Sudan and across the region. Al Fasher remained a key conflict hotspot; DTM field teams

[noted](#) nearly 10,000 households displaced from Zamzam IDP camp, Al Fasher locality, North Darfur on 11 and 12 February due to escalating violence. An uptick in violence in White Nile state displaced over 6,500 households from Al Gitana on 12 and 13 February, with most fleeing into neighbouring Aj Jazirah state.

In White Nile state, there was a significant spike in cholera in February, with the Sudan Ministry of Health [reporting](#) 1,640 cases and 63 deaths in the week of 24 February in White Nile alone. This is linked to the damage of key civilian infrastructure, which disrupts water supplies and is forcing thousands to resort to collecting water from sub-optimal and contaminated sources. The limited availability of health and vaccination services further

exacerbates the already dire situation.

Between 18 December 2024 and 04 March 2025, DTM field teams [monitored](#) approximately 396,738 individuals who returned from internal displacement to their locations of origin in Sudan. People primarily moved back to locations across Aj Jazirah (66%), Sennar (29%), and Khartoum (5%). The National Protection Cluster Sudan has also [noted](#) increasing incidences of spontaneous returns in places such as Aj Jazirah since 25 January and into February, highlighting mine contamination and unexploded ordnances, human rights violations, and the lack of public infrastructure such as schools, healthcare, and services as posing acute challenges to those who choose to return. Given emerging trends, the response must remain flexible and responsive to needs on the ground, scaling up in key locations to save lives and protect people on the move.

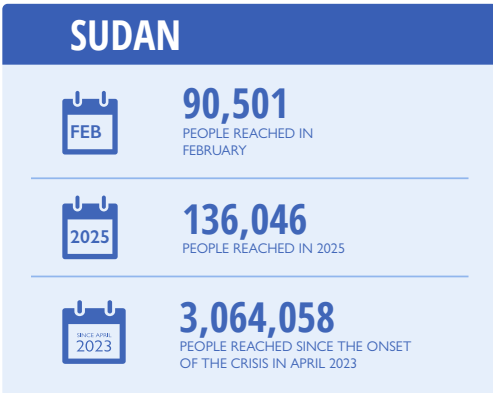
Protection concerns across the region have continued unabated or accelerated in key areas across the region over the reporting period. These include [media reports](#) on the situation of foreign nationals in Sudan.

4,762 households in total – including Sudanese and non-Sudanese – crossed the border into Upper Nile State, South Sudan, during the month of February. Life-saving transportation assistance will continue to be critically required to ease the pressure on Renk, protect those on the move, and prevent loss of human life as tensions flare in Upper Nile state and South Sudan looks set to slide back into renewed conflict. New arrivals from South Sudan will additionally face interlocking challenges of limited livelihood prospects, acute scarcity of housing and agricultural lands, and overcrowding at the transit centre. In Ethiopia, protection concerns continue to be raised by arrivals at the Metema Migrant Response Centre (MRC), including cases of gender-based violence, extortion, abduction, and theft, including identity documents.

In Libya, IOM field teams at the Alkufra point of entry between Sudan and Libya have reported a shift in the profile of arrivals during February, reporting the presence of significantly larger numbers of women and children, which in turn is driving new forms of trafficking in Libya, including sexual exploitation, and child labour. While IOM continues to coordinate with authorities and protection partners to provide services and referrals as identified, scaling the protection response is critical to prioritize life-saving assistance in such cases.



Discussion with crisis-affected communities in Tokar, Red Sea state
© IOM /Philippa Lowe







Localization has been a key tenet of IOM's response in Sudan. The IOM-managed Rapid Response Fund (RRF) is a grants mechanism that ensures assistance is timely, accurate, and delivered according to needs, particularly in hard-to-reach areas with active conflict. At the end of February 2025, IOM was overseeing 22 active sub-grants with start dates between December 2024 and February 2025, benefitting 260,155 individuals. The assistance provided included WASH, shelter and NFI support, health, and support to community-based protection mechanisms.

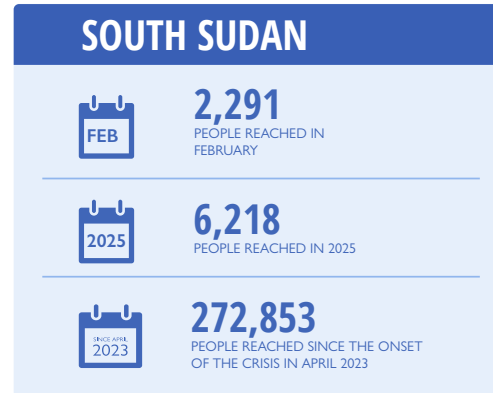
On 23 February, IOM participated in a cross-border interagency convoy from Chad into Sudan, where 50 metric tonnes of assistance were delivered to crisis-affected populations in Kulbus, West Darfur. The shipment included one truck carrying 1,000 hygiene kits and 1,000 jerry cans for common pipeline partners. This assistance is expected to benefit at least 6,000 individuals in West Darfur.

Throughout the response, IOM has provided VHR assistance to stranded migrants, providing a safe pathway for those facing dire conditions who wish to return to their countries but lack the means. Working in close partnership with embassies, consular offices, and authorities, IOM most recently provided VHR assistance to 140 Nigerians who had been stranded in Sudan for months, the assistance serving as a lifeline to provide protection and safe passage home. The chartered flight was the first of its kind since the outbreak of the conflict in Sudan, and landed in Nigeria on 27 February.



Continued funding is critically required to sustain and scale the operation in Sudan. Without assistance, affected populations face life-threatening risks, including from lack of health, protection, food, and water. Limitations in aid also drastically reduce the capacities of local actors to flexibly respond to current and future needs of the Sudanese people.

During the reporting period, IOM reached:

-  **32,500 individuals were assisted with Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item (ES/NFI) assistance and 51,600 individuals with WASH assistance**, by distributing essential relief items through the Common Pipeline.
-  **6,115 outpatient consultations** were delivered in partnership with UNDP and WHO through mobile health clinics in Gedaref, Kassala, and Northern states, six oral rehydration points in Gedaref state, and two static clinics in Gedaref state and Abyei PCA area.
-  **2,760 individuals were assisted with cash assistance**, used for responding to critical needs, including food, shelter, and healthcare while on the move.
-  **275 individuals were provided movement assistance**, including 175 individuals supported with Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR), 69 individuals supported with resettlement to Canada, 2 individuals benefitting from family reunification support, 28 provided permanent migration assistance, and 1 individual assisted with humanitarian admission.

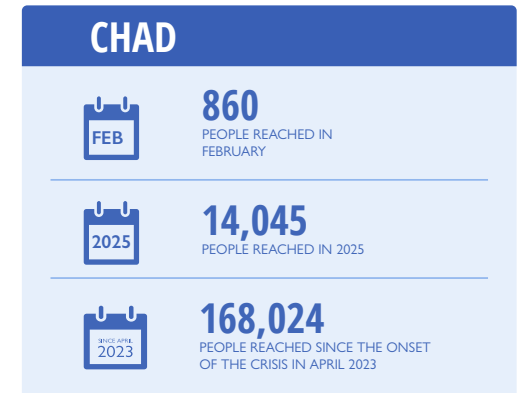


During the reporting period, IOM reached:


-  **5,059 individuals were provided protection services**, including prioritized access to specialized services and support, referrals, and awareness raising sessions on the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PSEAH) and gender-based violence.
-  **2,291 individuals were provided onward transportation assistance (OTA).**

IOM in South Sudan continues to provide life-saving onward transportation assistance to returnees from Sudan. The multisector response includes OTA, as well as the provision of clean drinking water in transit centres, free telecommunications services, medical support, and referrals to specialized protection services. Any reduction in funding would severely impact these operations, posing life-threatening risks to South Sudanese nationals fleeing the war in Sudan. People are now entering an increasingly fragile security situation in Upper Nile State. It will additionally hamper the ability of the Organization and its partners to implement health, WASH, CCCM, and protection services at transit sites. Notably, any reduction in WASH capacities will risk reversing the gains made to respond to the ongoing cholera epidemic and put additional strain on capacities of local and national government.

The volume of returns from Sudan constitutes 9% of South Sudan's total population. This, in turn, poses significant challenges for South Sudan, requiring support from partners to mitigate the negative impacts of this rapid population growth. IOM is supporting returnees' integration into host communities in Upper Nile and Unity States, specifically through livelihoods and business support, support to women empowerment initiatives, social cohesion and peacebuilding, housing, land, and property solutions, and MHPSS.



During the reporting period, IOM reached:

-  **860 individuals (200 households) were provided transitional shelters** in Toumtouma; the shelters allocated to returnee households are expected to ease the pressure on the host villages who were hitherto hosting displaced returnees.

IOM is the lead actor for the returnee response in eastern Chad. Throughout February, IOM continued providing critically needed protection and MHPSS services in Tongori, Amakarouba 2, Guialané, and Kawa in Ouaddaï, and Degoussa, Awin-Rado, Goz Achiye, et Goz Sarrah in Sila province. Assistance provided included referrals to specialized actors, direct protection assistance, awareness raising sessions, and strengthening community-based protection mechanisms. Psychosocial support provided by IOM included individual and group counselling sessions, psychoeducation, and socio-recreational activities.

EGYPT



237
PEOPLE REACHED IN
FEBRUARY



863
PEOPLE REACHED IN 2025



59,738
PEOPLE REACHED SINCE THE ONSET
OF THE CRISIS IN APRIL 2023

During the reporting period, IOM reached:



237 individuals received ES/NFI support, including blankets.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



4,599
PEOPLE REACHED SINCE THE OUTBREAK
OF THE CRISIS IN APRIL 2023

Between 9 and 22 February, 3,505 Sudanese refugees arrived in Birao in the Vakaga prefecture; this is triple the weekly count when compared to January, which recorded 872 arrivals in a week. Continued conflict in Sudan, particularly in Darfur, were cited as the primary reasons for leaving the country; the dry season lends additional ease to cross-border movements.

Despite continued flows, the security conditions in the Vakaga and Bamingui-Bangoran prefectures has deteriorated, posing critical access challenges in Birao and hampering the ability of humanitarian actors to reach crisis-affected populations in the area.

ETHIOPIA



3,918
PEOPLE REACHED
IN FEBRUARY



6,986
PEOPLE REACHED IN 2025



173,091
PEOPLE REACHED SINCE THE ONSET
OF THE CRISIS IN APRIL 2023

During the reporting period, IOM reached:



3,918 individuals were supported with health services, including health screening, referrals for malnutrition, pre-departure health screening, and health promotion activities focusing on communicable and non-communicable diseases; sexual and reproductive health services were also provided at the Metema point of entry (PoE).



2,936 individuals were supported with WASH assistance, including hygiene promotion sessions, access to latrines and shower services, community sensitization, and water delivery.



2,688 individuals were supported with protection services, including direct protection services and protection assistance provided at the Metema Migrant Response Centre (MRC).



2,079 individuals benefitted from MHPSS support.

The MRC in Metema functions as a one-stop shop for migrants to receive services, including temporary shelter accommodation, hot meals and water, clothing, hygiene kits, dignity kits, MHPSS awareness raising sessions, medical screening, and targeted protection assistance.

LIBYA



9,290
PEOPLE REACHED IN
FEBRUARY



17,839
PEOPLE REACHED IN 2025



105,193
PEOPLE REACHED SINCE THE ONSET
OF THE CRISIS IN APRIL 2023

During the reporting period, IOM reached:



2,906 individuals were provided with ES/NFI support through the distribution of NFIs and blankets.



2,424 individuals were provided health support.



2,210 individuals benefitted from food distributions.



633 individuals were provided protection assistance.



590 individuals were provided MHPSS support, including psychological first aid, awareness raising sessions, and recreational activities.



525 individuals attended awareness raising sessions on the risks of irregular migration.



Returnees at the Tongori site, Chad
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