

HIGHLIGHTS

- About 1,500 people returned to their home villages in Dafag, ending 10 years of asylum in CAR - UNHCR
- As of 31 December 2017, the HRP funding level stood at 45.4 per cent of the US\$804 million budgeted.
- MSF-Spain to phase out of Sortony, North Darfur, due to the improved health situation in the area.
- Plan International WASH interventions in two IDP camps in North Darfur to end in February 2018.
- UK contributes over £71.5 million towards aid operations in Sudan.
- In 2017, WFP sourced 390,000 MT of sorghum from the local market.

FIGURES 2017

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|---|-------------|
| # people in need in Sudan (2017 HNO) | 4.8 million |
| # people in need in Darfur (2017 HNO) | 3 million |
| GAM caseload (2017 HNO) | 2.2 million |
| South Sudanese refugees - total (Pre-2013) | 795,353 |
| (Post-2013) | 352,462 |
| (15 Dec 2017) | 442,891 |
| Other refugees and asylum seekers, UNHCR (30 June 2017) | 167,784 |

FUNDING

361.9 million
US\$ received in 2017

45.4% funded
(FTS, as of 31 Dec 2017)



Displaced women in Sortony IDP site (UN, Jan 2017)

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Nearly 1,500 people returned from CAR to their home villages in Dafag, South Darfur

The voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Pladama Ouaka refugee camp in Bambari, Central Africa Republic (CAR) to Dafag, South Darfur ended on 5 January, with 1,494 people returned to their home villages in Dafag, ending 10 years of asylum in the CAR, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

Facilitated by UNHCR and the Governments of Sudan and CAR, beginning on 12 December 2017, the refugees returned to Sudan via 66 UNHCR-chartered flights to South Darfur. Returnees are being provided with return packages to support their reintegration in Sudan, including: plots of land, non-food items and cash grants for shelter materials. The World Food Programme (WFP) is also providing a two-month food ration.

The refugees had fled from South Darfur to the CAR in 2007, during the conflict between Sudanese forces and armed groups. In late November 2017, they expressed their intention to return to Sudan, following improvements in the security situation and the disarmament of armed groups in their home villages.

UNHCR and the Government's Commissioner for Refugees (COR) are working with the State Ministry of Health (SMoH), local authorities and other partners—including the UN Children's Agency (UNICEF), the United Nations - African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), CARE International Switzerland and Norwegian Church Aid—to enhance services in the Dafag area. The Government of Sudan has pledged to implement international standards governing refugee returns, including the benefit of amnesties. UNHCR will continue to monitor the returnees and their situation in Dafag to ensure a secure and inclusive reintegration process.

There are 194 Sudanese refugees (70 families) who have opted to remain in CAR. UNHCR is working with the Government of CAR and the refugees to develop a local integration strategy to ensure that Sudanese refugees continue to benefit from international protection and are able to rebuild their lives in CAR in safety and with dignity.

Over 900 Chadian refugees living in Sudan have now returned to Chad

On 28 December 2017, a third convoy left Um Shalaya refugee camp, transporting 339 Chadian refugees to Moudeina, in Sila region of eastern Chad, according to UNHCR.

Since the return operation began on 18 December 2017, 944 Chadian refugees have returned to Moudeina so far, via three convoys. The voluntary repatriation process is ongoing and will continue in 2018. By April, it is expected that up to 4,000 refugees will have returned to Chad, after seeking refuge in Darfur for more than 10 years.

UNHCR assisted in the repatriation of about 1,500 Sudanese refugees from CAR

Since the outbreak of violence in Chad from 2005 to 2007, UNHCR and partners have worked with the Government of Sudan to provide Chadian refugees with protection and assistance, including the establishment of two refugee camps in Central Darfur. The voluntary repatriation of Chadian refugees



Trucks loaded with Chadian refugees' possessions prepare to leave Um Shalya refugee camp in Central Darfur for Moudeina, Chad (UNHCR, Dec 2017)

follows the signing of a tri-partite agreement in May 2017 between UNHCR and the Governments of Sudan and Chad, outlining key considerations for return. Nearly half of Chadian refugees in Darfur have expressed their willingness to return to Chad. Refugees who chose to remain in Darfur will continue to benefit from the principles of international protection.

Humanitarian funding for Sudan drops in 2017

The Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2017 received 45.4 per cent of the US\$804 million budgeted for the country, reported the [Financial Tracking System \(FTS\)](#). Almost 13 per cent lower than in 2016, this reduction in this year's contributions represents decreases in funding as a percentage of funds requested, and the actual amount provided, compared to the past five years. Between 2012 and 2016, HRP funding varied between 56-58 per cent of the total amounts, while funding received was between \$550 million and \$580 million, according to FTS data.

FTS is a service managed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Its aim is to present a complete picture of all international humanitarian funding flows. Since 1992, it has collected reports on humanitarian funding flows submitted by Government donors, UN-administered funds, UN agencies, NGOs and other humanitarian actors and partners, including the private sector.

Education (11.3 per cent), Recovery, Returns and Reintegration (13.3 per cent) and Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (16.6 per cent) are the least funded sectors, while Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications (62.3 per cent) is the only sector funded more than 50 per cent, based on FTS data.

Similar to previous years, the United States, the European Union and the United Kingdom are the primary donors, and their contributions accounted for almost 70 per cent of the \$365 million disbursed for HRP 2017. Even so, United States funding for the HRP in 2017 dropped by about \$100 million compared to 2016, United Kingdom funding reduced by almost half (\$34.2 million) and European Union funding decreased by 14 per cent.

As of 31 December 2017, the HRP funding level stood at 45.4 per cent of the US\$804 million budgeted

REQUIREMENTS VS. FUNDING 2004 - 2017 (\$billion)

as of 3 January 2018



CONTRIBUTIONS BY DONORS TOWARDS 2017 HRP (\$million)

as of 3 January 2018

¹ Donated funds less than \$3.0 million. ² Donors not specified.

MSF-Spain phasing out of Sortony, North Darfur, as health situation improves

MSF-Spain to phase out of Sortony as health conditions in the area improve

The improvement of health indicators in North Darfur has led international NGO Médecins Sans Frontières-Spain (MSF-Spain)—the main health provider—to phase out of Sortony, and is currently discussing its handover with the SMOH. The phase out is scheduled for the end of March 2018. Plans are underway for a joint visit to the area—including representatives from MSF-Spain, state and federal Ministries of Health, and the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC)—to better define the handover process and the timeframe needed to accomplish it.

The national NGO Anhar for Peace Development Organisation (ANHAR)—the second humanitarian organization providing health services in Sortony—indicated that they are unable to take over the MSF-Spain clinic due to funding constraints, and that they may also be forced to hand over clinics to the SMOH if no funding is secured by the end of February 2018. ANHAR's current funding for health services in Sortony was provided by WHO and UNICEF.

Water and sanitation assistance to people in need in Sortony

The international NGO Oxfam America and the government's Water and Sanitation Department (WES) have been maintaining the water supply in Sortony benefiting an estimated 21,600 IDPs. Between 15 and 21 December 2017, Oxfam America and WES maintained a daily supply of 285,000 litres of water, equivalent to 13.2 litres per person per day (l/pp/pd) and is within the minimum SPHERE standard of 10-l/pp/pd. This is less than what had previously been provided—335,000 litres per day (equivalent to 15.5l/pp/pd which is also within the SPHERE standard)—due to the breakdown of a borehole run by WES. Water chlorination is ongoing and the process is regularly monitored.

Oxfam America also provides sanitation assistance, including latrine monitoring; hygiene promotion—including cleaning campaigns; and garbage collection.

Over 3,800 children can access child-friendly spaces in Sortony every week

The national NGOs Kebkabiya Smallholder Charitable Society (KSCS) is running five Child Friendly Space (CFS) in Sortony—with the support of UNICEF—and holds child protection-related activities in two shifts every day. Up to 3,800 children make use of these CFS a week.

Plan International responds to water, sanitation and hygiene needs in North Darfur IDP camps

Plan International water and sanitation interventions in Tawilla and Zamzam IDP camp will end in February 2018

The international NGO Plan International has been providing water, sanitation and hygiene services in North Darfur's Zamzam and Tawilla IDP camp in response to the acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak. The four-month project—which is funded by IOM—will end in February 2018.

Activities include the daily water chlorination of 43

water sources (20 in Zamzam and 23 in Tawilla) with chlorine supplies provided by the Government's Water and Sanitation Department (WES). Surveillance activities are also ongoing at both project sites.

Trained community hygiene committee members are carrying a number of activities in both IDP camps, including home visit hygiene campaigns; jerrycan cleaning; household water treatment; garbage cleaning campaigns; and training community leaders, parent teacher associations and community-based child protection committees and networks on hygiene promotion.



Teaching good handwashing practices (Plan International, 2017)

United Kingdom humanitarian aid tops £71.5 million for Sudan

The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) topped 2017 with a £71.5 million (about US\$96.2 million) in multi-year contributions to the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF), UNHCR and WFP to assist people in need in Sudan.

The SHF received a £31.5 million (US\$42.1 million) multi-year contribution to help the humanitarian community in Sudan provide life-saving support to millions of people in need of assistance, according to a [press release](#) issued on 20 December. 2017 has witnessed significant shortfalls in the funding required to address humanitarian needs in Sudan, which makes responding to new emergencies difficult and puts lives at risk. This donation from the United Kingdom boosts Sudan's \$804 million HRP 2017, currently closing the year with a 55 per cent funding shortfall.

UNHCR received a multi-year contribution of £7.5 million (\$9.9 million) to respond to the critical needs of South Sudanese refugees in Sudan, including those anticipated to arrive between 2018 and 2020, said a [press release](#) issued on 21 December. UNHCR will use the funds to provide life-saving assistance to respond to the vital needs of South

DFID contributes £31.5 million to the Sudan Humanitarian Fund

WFP received a two-year contribution of £32.5 million to continue assisting IDPs in Darfur who have not had regular access to food for many years

Sudanese refugees as well as host communities in White Nile, West and South Kordofan, and East and South Darfur states. Assistance will be provided in protection, water and sanitation, and education activities. The funds will also allow UNHCR to procure non-food items, such as blankets, sleeping mats and cooking kits, for this vulnerable population



DFID visit to Redis 2 camp, White Nile State (UNHCR, 2017)

WFP received a two-year contribution of £32.5 million (\$43.7 million) to continue support to IDPs in Darfur who have not had regular access to food for many years, according to a [press release](#) issued on 27 December. The contribution will also allow WFP to expand its capacity to provide cash or vouchers so that people can buy essential food items and other necessities. Providing cash or vouchers empowers people with the freedom to choose what is most needed, and can generate income for local businesses and markets. The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)—a WFP-operated service for the humanitarian, donor and diplomatic community—will also receive through this donation much needed funding.

Atypical increase in sorghum and millet prices during main season harvests – FEWS NET

Atypical price increases for sorghum and millet were observed in November in several major markets in Sudan, [FEWS NET reported in its latest Sudan Food Security Outlook Update](#). This occurs at a time when prices typically begin to decrease as harvested crops start to arrive in markets, according to FEWS NET—one of the leading providers of early warning and analysis on food insecurity.

Sorghum and millet prices abnormally increased by 10 to 40 per cent between October and November 2017. Field reports obtained by FEWS NET suggest that some of these increases may be due to slight delays in harvests this year, combined with shifts in planted area for cereal crops versus cash crops, with prices for the latter more than twice as high than at the same time last year. Field reports further indicate that farmers are currently accessing sufficient cash income from the sale of cash crops, to allow them to hold on to and sell cereals later in the year at more advantageous prices. Overall, November levels of sorghum and millet prices were on average 25 to 55 per cent higher than on the same period last year, and 50 and 80 per cent higher than the five-year average for sorghum and millet, respectively, FEWS NET reported.

Prices of locally produced wheat continued to increase due to seasonal factors across most markets since last September, and between October and November 2017, they increased by five to 10 per cent across most markets in Sudan. This increase reflects the trend typical at the end of the season, when market supplies and household stocks are at their lowest. In November 2017, local wheat prices were on average 40 per cent higher than at the same period last year and 75 per cent higher than the recent five-year average, according to FEWS NET.

Sorghum and millet prices have increased by 10 to 40 per cent between October and November 2017

Sorghum is the staple food for the majority of poor households in central and eastern regions of Sudan

The State Minister for Finance, Magdi Hassan Yaseen, told the media on 28 December that the Government of Sudan plans to cut wheat subsidies completely under its 2018 budget, which will take effect at the beginning of January, and will leave wheat imports to the private sector. The Government would buy locally-produced wheat at “encouraging



Sorghum is a staple crop in Sudan (FAO, archive)

prices”, Yaseen said. According to Yaseen, Sudan imported 2 million metric tons (MT) of wheat in 2017, while local wheat production was 445,000 MT.

According to FEWS NET, sorghum, millet, and wheat are the most important food commodities in northern Sudan. Sorghum is the staple food for the majority of poor households in central and eastern regions of Sudan. Millet is the main staple food for majority of households in Darfur and some parts of Kordofan in western Sudan. Wheat is most often used as a substitute all over northern Sudan, but it is a staple food for northern states.

FEWS NET said that main season crop harvests underway since October are likely to continue into January 2018. The harvest of cash crops (sesame and groundnut) is complete, while sorghum and cotton harvests in the irrigated and rainfed sector is still underway. The preliminary findings of the inter-agency Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) conducted during November/December 2017 suggest average to above-average harvests are likely in most areas of Sudan, except in Kassala and the northern parts of Gedaref and North Darfur states, and the Kordofan region, where cumulative rainfall was below normal and/or long dry spells occurred between June and September 2017.

In 2017, WFP Sudan sourced 390,000 MT of food locally

In 2017, WFP sourced more sorghum from Sudan than ever before, totalling 390,000 MT for use in the country as well as providing for regional operations. WFP is at the final stage of its first purchase of sorghum from the Agriculture Bank of Sudan, in addition to a potential strategic partnership agreement with the Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR), both of which support local Sudanese farmers and boost the national economy. This significant increase in locally procured grain illustrates Sudan’s potential to become a food hub for the region.

In 2017, WFP sourced 390,000 MT of sorghum from the local market