

# Sudan

6 May 2020

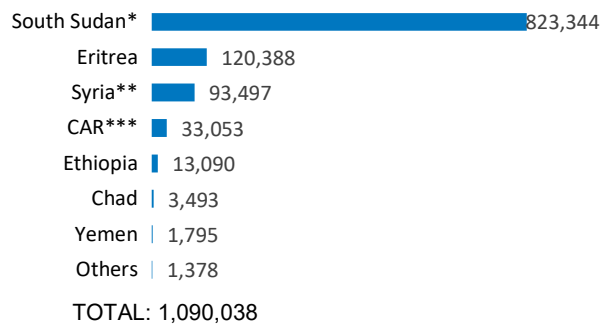
UNHCR has activated **COVID-19 prevention measures** and planning response in worse case scenarios for the over 2 million internally displaced people and one million refugees

UNHCR **delivered soap for one million people in Sudan** - refugees, internally displaced people and the most vulnerable members of host communities across the country

**Business continuity plans** for UNHCR and partners will ensure humanitarian assistance, while specific COVID-19 activities will be delivered

## REFUGEES (AS OF 31 MARCH)

### Countries of Origin

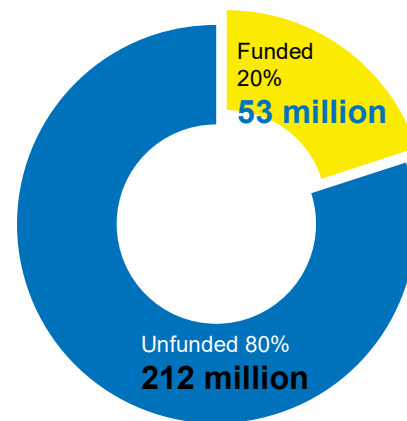


\* Total South Sudanese refugees registered by the Commission for Refugees/COR with UNHCR support, by Immigration Passport Police (IPP) registered and unregistered population. Government sources estimate a total of 1.3M South Sudanese refugees; however, these data require verification.  
 \*\* includes both individuals registered by UNHCR and COR, and IPP statistics on annual arrivals and departures  
 \*\*\* There are 1,310 new refugees who arrived from Central African Republic (CAR) to South and Central Darfur in March 2020.

## FUNDING (AS OF 14 APRIL)

### USD 265.1 million

requested for Sudan



## UNHCR PRESENCE

UNHCR's operation in Sudan started over 50 years ago, today UNHCR in Sudan provides protection and support to asylum-seekers, refugees, internally displaced people (IDP), returnees, as well as persons at risk of statelessness.

### Staff:

342 National Staff

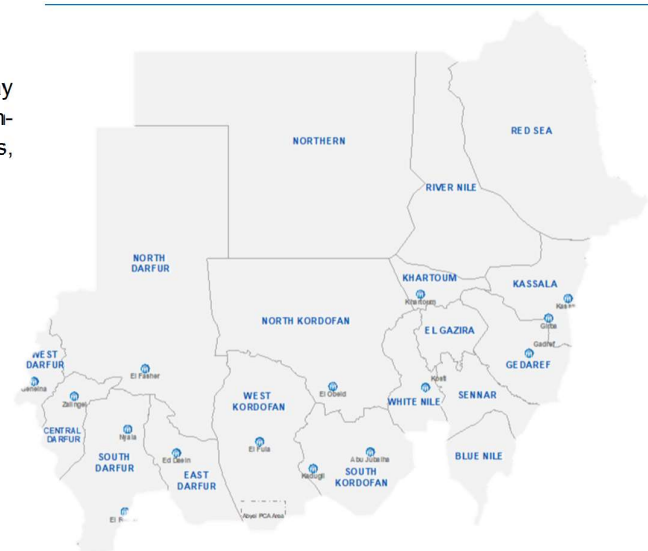
103 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Branch Office in Khartoum

9 Field Offices in Abu Jubeiha, El Daein, El Geneina, El Obeid, El Radoom, El Fula, Khashm El Girba, Nyala and Zalingei

4 Sub Office in El Fasher, Kassala, Kadugli and Kosti



## Working with Partners

- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, implements the refugee coordination model in Sudan and co-leads the national inter-agency **Refugee Consultation Forum** (RCF) with the Commission for Refugees (COR), which includes sector level Technical Advisory Groups as well as field-level Refugee Working Groups that contribute to more effective coordination of the refugee response at each level.
- UNHCR works with a main government counterpart, COR, in addition to line ministries, including the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Welfare and Social Security, Education, Health and the Civil Registry, Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Natural resources, as well as with the Water and Environmental Sanitation unit, the Directorate of Immigration and Passports Police (IPP), the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and other authorities. UNHCR also collaborates with more than 50 international and national NGO partners to implement multi-sectoral activities across the country.
- UNHCR led the coordination of the **2020 Sudan Country Refugee Response Plan**, the first inter-agency, comprehensive and multi-sectoral response plan which covers the needs of all major refugee populations in Sudan, including: South Sudanese, refugees from CAR, Chad, Eritrea and Ethiopia and other countries of origin. The Plan brings together 34 humanitarian and development partners with a budget requirement of some USD 477 M. It targets over 900,000 refugees as well as nearly a quarter million Sudanese in host areas.
- Furthermore, UNHCR leads the coordination of the South Sudan Refugee Response Plan in Sudan, which is an inter-agency response strategy to address the protection and humanitarian needs of South Sudanese refugees. The 2019-2020 RRP for Sudan is costed at USD 321 M for 2020 and includes the financial requirements for 28 partners across eight sectors (Protection, Education, Emergency Shelter/Non-Food items - ES/NFI, Food, Health and Nutrition, Livelihoods, Energy, and Water/Sanitation/Health).
- As the lead on the Protection and Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Sectors for internally displaced people, UNHCR works closely with partners to identify priority needs and to ensure a coordinated response, which includes joint planning in the Humanitarian Country Team and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Sudan. UNHCR coordinates closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Development for the Protection Sector, and HAC for the ES/NFI. Moreover, UNHCR promotes protection mainstreaming across all sectors, in addition to working closely with the Return, Recovery, and Reintegration Sector. UNHCR is a member of the Durable Solutions Working Group.
- UNHCR, together with IOM, co-chairs the Counter Trafficking & Mixed Migration Working Group (CTWG) which brings various UN agencies, international NGOs

together with the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking. The CTWG supports coordination between actors technically and logistically.

- **COVID-19 response:** the RCF is leading the response for refugees with the participation of WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF and over 40 other partners. The RCF has a national refugee plan and 12 locality-level plans in Sudan's refugee-hosting States (including White Nile and Kordofans). The RCF is also working to ensure that refugees are included under broader national and State COVID-19 plans for other populations in need. This is done at the national level through the RCF's participation in the Humanitarian Country Team's COVID-19 Working Group and in dedicated COVID-19 meetings led by OCHA or other lead agencies in each State.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan, which is accomplished by working in close partnership with the authorities. Moreover, UNHCR also works with national and international partners, including NGOs and UN agencies, funds and programmes, to provide protection and assistance to IDPs and those affected by or at risk of statelessness. With UNHCR's support COR conducts the registration of asylum-seekers and refugees using **Biometric Identity Management System**. While registration efforts continue, the use of the biometric system is currently on hold as a prevention measure for the COVID-19 response. COR is also responsible for refugee status determination (RSD) with technical and financial support by UNHCR. Eritreans and Ethiopians are the largest groups undergoing RSD, with other major groups such as South Sudanese and Syrians falling under group recognition or other protection regimes.
- **COVID-19 response:** UNHCR has reached to most refugees through multi-language SMS, posters, billboards, community networks etc. with risk communication messages, in line with WHO and the national guidelines. UNHCR has developed Guidance on Protection Response, establishing remote case management procedures and simplifying referral pathways, including through a hotline. UNHCR is strengthening sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) risk mitigation measures during COVID-19.

### Education

- As of January 2020, it is estimated that over 353,000 refugee children are of school going age (6-17 years), which amounts to 33% of the total refugee

population. It is further estimated that in some States, up to 67% of the school aged children are out-of-school. Common root-causes cited include economic capabilities of the parents, accessibility issues, poor state of schools, high dropout rates and child labour among others. UNHCR works with government counterparts and other relevant partners to help asylum-seekers and refugees access quality education. Activities include school infrastructure maintenance and expansion, which also includes public schools attended by refugees. Moreover, UNHCR supports refugees with their school contributions, exam fees and enrolment. With the limited funding available, UNHCR also pays teachers incentives, provides textbooks, teaching materials and school uniforms.

- Long term advocacy has resulted in the **inclusion of refugee education in the current government sector strategic plan**. UNHCR has supported this process and will continue to work with the government to support the implementation of this plan which suffers from a huge funding gap.
- **COVID-19 response:** At the request of the Government, all schools have been closed since 15 March as preventative measures. UNHCR developed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) COVID-19 prevention materials that were distributed to refugee families through teachers. In addition, UNHCR and partners provided an advance payment of monthly incentives for over 850 teachers in primary and secondary education in the camps and urban areas ahead of a potential lockdown and coordinated with the cash-based initiative project to ensure students in higher education are receiving their monthly fees. Finally, UNHCR is coordinating with the Federal Ministry of Education to include refugees and IDPs in the distant learning initiatives the Ministry is looking into to prepare students for school examinations.

### Health

- UNHCR, in collaboration with the government and partners, facilitates access to primary and emergency secondary and tertiary healthcare services. UNHCR continues to advocate with the government for refugee integration into the national health system ensuring that people under its mandate can access health care services at par with nationals. In camp settings/collective settlements UNHCR supports the operational costs of primary healthcare services in facilities in these locations and supports referral costs for secondary and tertiary health care services in government-run facilities. In urban settings such as Khartoum and Nyala, UNHCR covers the cost of medications, surgical procedures, laboratory test and other diagnostics for refugees at selected health facilities.
- **COVID-19 response:** UNHCR is working with partners on awareness raising in camps and settlements so that refugees and IDPs are aware of symptoms and how Covid-19 is spread, know how to protect themselves and the importance of seeking medical attention immediately when they develop symptoms. In addition,

UNHCR and partners are providing health care workers including community health volunteers with the necessary equipment and knowledge to identify and manage Covid-19 cases. UNHCR, in collaboration with the government and partners, is establishing and equipping isolation facilities. UNHCR has also initiated the procurement of medicine, medical equipment and medical supplies including personal protective equipment.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR supports preventive and curative aspects of nutrition programmes through the Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) model. In addition, UNHCR monitors the nutrition levels of refugees through Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) assessments and coordinates with partners to cover the nutrition gaps. Moreover, UNHCR works with WFP on food distribution to ensure refugees have sufficient access to basic food. Little investment has been done in livelihoods programming for refugees, which further compounds their food insecurity.
- **COVID-19 response:** In partnership with WFP, modified food distributions are being carried out as a COVID-19 prevention measure. Vouchers are handed out in the refugee camps for two months instead of the one-month ration in order to reduce the number of gatherings. In addition, UNHCR will provide the preparation of wet feeding in isolation facilities close to the refugee-hosting localities.

### Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR works with partners to provide basic access to water, hygiene and sanitation to refugees and IDPs, with particular focus on camps and settlements, where the situation is dire. Average litres of potable water available per person per day across refugee camps/settlements remain below the UNHCR desired standard of  $\geq 20$ . They stand at approximately 15l/p/d, which is the emergency high end. Daily water available has largely been affected by erratic fuel supplies on the local market. UNHCR and partners have solarised at least six water supply systems in light of ongoing fuel crisis and reduce running costs and carbon footprint through renewable energy.
- One major activity has been the upgrading of the haffir, an artificial lake, in Dar Batti, South Kordofan's largest refugee settlement with a network of water pipes. This not only reduces the risk and work for women who had to walk 3,5 kms to fetch water, it improves the relationship with locals nearby who also benefit from the new and safe water system close to their homes. Latrine usage ratios are well within acceptable ranges in other locations except in White Nile camps. Current communal latrine coverage in White Nile camps still remains low with usage ratios of around 62 individuals per latrine in Al Kashafa, 130 in Jouri and about 120 in Al Redis I and II, against the desired standard of 20 individuals.

- Over 48,000 women and girls have benefitted from distribution of personal hygiene items for menstrual hygiene management.
- **COVID-19 response:** UNHCR delivered **1 million bars of soap** in all camps and settlements, including Khartoum “Open Areas”, benefitting refugees and poor families in nearby host communities. This includes 600,000 pieces given to WFP to be included in packages for vulnerable families in Khartoum.
- UNHCR is also prioritizing the strengthening and maintenance of essential water systems, sanitation facilities and distributing soap and hand-washing stations at public places such as marketplaces, health facilities, reception centres and isolation centres. This is complemented by COVID-19 specific hygiene promotion messaging and awareness raising.

#### Shelter and Non-food Items

- In 2019, UNHCR has provided some **1,3 million Non-food Items (NFIs)** to people across Sudan, including refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities.
- The NFI basic kit consists of plastic sheets, blankets, sleeping kitchen set, and a 20-litre jerry can per household. Larger families (greater than five people) are provided additional items to meet their needs. Furthermore, refugees also receive seasonal mosquito nets.
- UNHCR as sector lead ensures a coordinated response, making NFIs available to front-line responders during an emergency.
- Major recipients are South Sudanese refugees, IDPs in Darfur and Kordofan and newly displaced people in Darfur. NFI distributions also generally support some 15 percent of the most vulnerable individuals of the host community.
- The NFI Core Pipeline, managed by UNHCR on behalf of the sector, procures and stores NFIs in strategically located warehouses in Darfur, Khartoum and Kassala, which serve as hubs for further distribution.
- General distributions are conducted to newly displaced families, based on the Displaced Tracking Matrix provided by IOM or new (refugee) arrivals, based on registration in ProGres (refugee data system) and initial assessment reports.
- **COVID-19 response:** UNHCR is planning to distribute jerry cans, shelter materials in densely populated refugee camps, plastic sheets, kitchen sets, blankets, mosquito nets and plastic nets.

#### Access to Energy

- Gaps in energy access persist, with limited sustainable and safe sources of cooking energy for refugees and IDPs. UNHCR supports refugees with Fuel Efficient stoves (FES) and is piloting distribution of charcoal briquettes and ethanol as alternative cooking fuel in 2020 in White Nile State. In addition, in 2017, UNHCR started an initiative for degraded forests, that brings together

refugees and hosts in White Nile, East Darfur and East Sudan States for environmental conservation, livelihood opportunities, and provision of firewood.

- UNHCR has introduced **solar systems to replace diesel generators** in most water pumps, schools and health care centres in East Sudan, five health care centres in White Nile and one in East Darfur. Gaps in securing reliable energy sources for refugees remain in the other States for lack of funding.
- **COVID-19 response:** UNHCR is installing power supplies in health and isolation facilities near refugee-hosting localities. In addition, UNHCR is planning to provide reliable power sources to pump sufficient water to handwashing facilities and to provide cooking energy for refugees ahead of a possible lockdown.

### Durable Solutions

- Voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Chad started in April 2018 after the signing of a Tripartite Agreement between UNHCR, Sudan and Chad. Some 3,800 Sudanese refugees have returned to Darfur, with another 5,000 projected to return. Since April 2019, voluntary repatriation has been suspended. The returnees had been assisted with return packages, cash-based interventions, and transportation, and UNHCR also initiated reintegration assistance to upgrade basic services in return areas. Land occupation and weak mechanisms to address land disputes, have hampered the ability of some returnees to re-establish themselves in their villages of origin in Darfur.
- UNHCR uses resettlement strategically as a durable solution and protection tool. In total, over 400 individuals left on resettlement to Australia, Canada, Italy, France, and Sweden etc. in 2019. In 2020, so far 66 refugees departed to Canada, Italy, Australia, France and USA.
- **COVID-19:** As of 17 March 2020, resettlement travel has been temporarily suspended globally, which also put processing of resettlement cases on hold.

## Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation and those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 55.9 million**.

CERF 29.9 million | United States of America 9.9 million | Netherlands 4.7 million | UN Peacebuilding Fund 2.6 million | Finland 2.2 million | Denmark 1.9 million |

Canada 1.5 million | Switzerland 1 million | Japan 940,000 | UN African Union Hybrid Operation Darfur 770,000

### **BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD**

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

Germany 60.2 million | United States of America 13.8 million | Sweden 9 million | Finland 5.5 million | Canada 3.7 million | Private donors Australia 2.2 million |

### **UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD**

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden 76.4 million | Norway 41.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 25.9 million | Private donors Spain 20 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 10.5 million |

## **External / Donor Relations**

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### **LINKS**

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