



*Haifa Mohamed Abdalla, a Sudanese refugee student born in Farchana camp in eastern Chad, says the community's most urgent needs are food, education, water, and healthcare. She dreams of becoming a doctor, but with uncertainty around funding support for education, she is saddened and unable to imagine her future.*  
©UNHCR/Ala Kheir

# The Sudan Emergency: Three Years On

## 2025 Update

## Current Humanitarian Situation

Despite repeated diplomatic efforts to achieve a ceasefire, the conflict in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has continued unabated since April 2023 and has become the world's largest displacement and protection crisis. The conflict in Sudan has been marked by severe violence and widespread human rights violations against civilians, including sexual violence, torture, arbitrary killings, extortion, and the targeting of specific ethnic groups—resulting in a humanitarian crisis across the country and the wider region.

As the Sudan conflict enters its fourth year, both the scale and complexity of the crisis is intensifying, with continued large internal and cross-border displacement as well as secondary or repeated movements driven by insecurity but also due to gaps in services in neighbouring countries, with clinics closing, nutrition programmes suspended, and protection services cut.

As of March 2026, more than 14 million people had been forced to flee their homes since the conflict began, with nearly 12 million remaining displaced. This includes 6.8 million still internally displaced in Sudan, many of whom live in extremely precarious conditions in informal sites, settlements and in camps. An additional 4.5 million refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees sought safety in the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan and Uganda.

Returns to and within Sudan in areas where fighting has largely abated—comprising approximately 3.5 million internally-displaced persons and 897,500 refugee returnees primarily from Egypt, South Sudan and Libya remain extremely fragile due to the collapse of basic services, widespread destruction of infrastructure, and limited access to humanitarian assistance.

Families returning to Sudan, often facing hardships in places of displacement, are driven by the determination to rebuild their lives after years of relentless conflict. But decisions to return to Sudan are challenging.

Many Sudanese returnees arrive to find their home areas destroyed, with infrastructure and basic services no longer functioning. Some are stranded in border and transit states without sufficient means to travel home, which strains already limited services and humanitarian capacity. Extreme weather events in Sudan, South Sudan and Chad have deepened needs by damaging shelters and key infrastructure, disrupting livelihoods, and hindering aid delivery. Disease outbreaks, particularly cholera, are also worsening conditions, especially in Chad, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan.

Concurrently, nearly 862,000 refugees and asylum-seekers are hosted in Sudan, many of whom live in protracted displacement and have experienced multiple displacements since the start of the conflict. Also, the proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers living in camps versus in urban areas has shifted during the conflict, with some 70 per cent now living in camps in extremely overcrowded conditions, with basic services unable to meet the vastly increased needs. Sudan also continues to receive refugees and asylum-seekers from South Sudan, with ongoing instability in the country remaining the primary driver of displacement. As of 31 March 2026, an estimated 84,700 new arrivals have been recorded, placing additional pressure on already strained reception capacity and basic services in hosting areas.

In March 2025, the consolidation of power in the capital Khartoum led to a reduction in fighting in the city and surrounding areas. However, the conflict intensified in the Darfur and Kordofan regions, triggering fresh waves of large displacement towards Northern, River Nile and White Nile States and into Chad and South Sudan. At the end of October, the over 500-day siege of El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, ended with a transfer of power to the RSF, resulting in further mass displacement and reports of widespread casualties and human rights violations. By early December,

more than 107,000 people had fled El Fasher town and neighbouring villages, and in Kordofan, over 132,000 were displaced.

Most Sudanese refugees reach asylum countries in grim condition. In Chad, 1 in 10 Sudanese refugee children arrive malnourished. Many refugees, especially women and girls, have encountered violence at multiple junctures - when their homes came under attack, in transit, in temporary shelters, and at the borders. Family separation is also a serious concern, and refugees exhibit high levels of mental distress.

Arrivals from Sudan often enter impoverished regions of asylum countries with limited services and economic opportunities. Disrupted cross-border trade between Sudan and its neighbours is driving food and fuel inflation, worsening macroeconomic pressures. Despite severe underfunding, reduced humanitarian services, disease outbreaks, and extreme weather events, host governments and communities have shown remarkable solidarity. However, the scale of displacement and funding shortfalls mean that millions remain without adequate protection, food, shelter or access to basic services both inside Sudan and in host countries.

Until lasting peace is achieved, conflict and human rights violations are expected to continue into 2026, prolonging displacement and leaving millions of displaced IDPs and Sudanese refugees across seven countries of asylum in urgent need of assistance. Governments and host communities receiving Sudanese refugees have demonstrated exceptional solidarity despite limited resources, underscoring the need for sustained international support.

***"During my first mission as High Commissioner, I made it a priority to be with those who have been forced to flee Sudan. I encountered lawyers who, despite being displaced themselves, were using their expertise to assist others in the same predicament. I met doctors providing care to patients with barely any resources. I met mothers giving everything they had to keep their children safe and nourished. Their strength and perseverance left me deeply moved. Yet I also witnessed the profound toll of rights violated, lives uprooted, and futures put on hold. Every life lost to war. Every person forced to flee. Each one is a tragedy, and a wound that endures for a lifetime. More than 12 million people have been displaced. That is 12 million lives shattered. We cannot turn away."***

Barham Salih, UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

## Key figures – as of March 2026

### PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE:

**11,642,505**

Forcibly displaced from Sudan

---

**4,487,604**

Newly arrived refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees outside Sudan

---

**6,881,913**

IDPs in Sudan

---

**837,200**

Sudanese refugees already in the region prior to April 2023

---

### **Funding**

In February 2026, UNHCR launched the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) 2026, which outlines the multi-agency response plan and financial requirements of 123 humanitarian and development partners supporting host governments to address the critical needs of some 5.9 million refugees, returnees, third-country nationals and host community members in the countries of asylum. The [Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) seeks \$1.6 billion.

[UNHCR's 2026 Emergency Appeal](#) amounts to \$929 million for Sudan and the seven neighbouring countries. As of the end of March, UNHCR's 2026 Sudan Situation regional requirements were only 24 per cent funded. UNHCR plans to assist a total of 4.9 million Sudanese, including some 830,000 who were displaced and residing in the region prior to April 2023.

The [2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan](#) released in February 2026, is a comprehensive, countrywide reflection of humanitarian needs in Sudan. More than 170 humanitarian organizations are delivering multi-sectoral assistance, with partners targeting 20.4 million people. To deliver this response, \$2.9 billion is required.

## SUDAN

### UNHCR operational deliveries in 2025

**82,200** identity documents issued to refugees and asylum-seekers

**960,000** health care consultations took place

**80,100** people received cash assistance for various purposes

**517,000** people received non-food items (NFIs)

**120,000** displaced people received emergency shelter assistance

**65,800** refugee children and youth accessed formal and nonformal learning opportunities.

**60** multi-purpose community centres are functioning

**24,400** people received livelihood support



*From left to right: Halima, Adila, and Rehab, Sudanese displaced women, pose for a photo at the Al Afadh IDP site in Al Dabbah locality, Northern State. Thousands of people, mostly women and children, fled following the RSF takeover of El Fasher city. © UNHCR/Assadullah Nasrullah*

Since the conflict started, the protection environment for forcibly displaced people and host communities has deteriorated sharply. Sudan continues to experience complex and overlapping population movements. It is the world's largest internal displacement crisis, with over 9 million IDPs, of whom some 2.3 million were living in protracted displacement before the conflict began. Internally displaced people have endured extremely precarious conditions marked by insecurity, inadequate shelter, grave human rights violations and ineffective or non-functioning essential services. Some 862,000 refugees and asylum-seekers who had fled conflict, persecution, and instability in their countries of origin, now also face an active internal conflict that has eroded protection space and disrupted basic services, unable to cope with the higher number of displaced people.

In addition, during 2025, over 84,000 refugees and asylum-seekers have arrived in Sudan, mainly from South Sudan. Although reduced fighting in some areas has prompted large-scale returns of

Sudanese from within Sudan and neighbouring countries, returnees are arriving in areas devastated by years of conflict with little to no access to basic services. Yet others are stranded in border and transit states, unable to return due to a lack of resources, which is placing additional pressure on already overstretched services and response capacity in those areas.

The conflict has also triggered extensive secondary displacement of refugees from urban centres to camps, reversing a pre-conflict trend where 70 per cent lived outside camps. This is placing severe strain on camp infrastructure and the provision of basic services.

Famine was confirmed in the Zamzam, Abu Shouk, and Al Salam IDP camps in North Darfur State in early 2025 and in Kadugli, South Kordofan State by November 2025. Acute malnutrition and food insecurity have risen sharply, particularly in the Darfur and Kordofan regions, affecting IDPs, refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities alike, with women and children most vulnerable. Communities throughout the country highlighted an acute need to expand protection services like mental health care, psychosocial support, and related services, as widespread violence continues to inflict profound and lasting trauma. Although partners are working to scale up assistance, access is challenging in conflict-affected and hard-to-reach areas, often due to insecurity. With few opportunities for voluntary return or other durable solutions, a substantial proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers is expected to remain in Sudan throughout 2026.

Despite operating in a highly challenging environment marked by limited resources, insecurity and other bureaucratic impediments, UNHCR Sudan has continued to deliver critical humanitarian assistance. UNHCR reached over 1.15 million people in Sudan, including 785,000 refugees and asylum-seekers and 370,000 IDPs, returnees and host community members, with life-saving, multi-sector protection services and humanitarian assistance.

UNHCR's primary office was in Port Sudan, with operational presence in Gedaref, Kassala, Northern, White Nile, Khartoum, Blue Nile, East Darfur and North Kordofan States. The Office is further supported by a back office in Nairobi.

### Protection

- Although Sudan maintained its open-door asylum policy, the overall protection environment deteriorated as conflict and displacement persisted. Encampment policies, emergency laws, and negative perceptions of foreigners were increasingly enforced. Despite UNHCR's advocacy regarding refoulement risks, undocumented foreigners, including refugees and asylum-seekers, were detained or deported. The suspension of refugee registration since September 2025 has further heightened risks of refoulement and restricted freedom of movement and access to services. In response, UNHCR strengthened border monitoring, enhanced community engagement, and provided capacity-building to authorities on international asylum principles. By year-end, 79 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers were individually registered and more than 82,200 documents were issued to refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Enhanced case management, safe referral pathways, and confidential service delivery enabled more than 40,000 forcibly displaced people, primarily women and girls, to access gender-based violence prevention and response services in 2025. Unfortunately, coverage of GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) services was inadequate amid rising needs driven by the conflict, large-scale displacement, and restricted humanitarian access, all of which limited the ability to achieve more substantial progress in this area.
- The protection environment for forcibly displaced people and host communities in Sudan is highly challenging, particularly in, but not limited to, the Darfur and Kordofan states. In 2025, protection monitoring by UNHCR and its partners across Sudan enabled evidence-based protection analysis, informed advocacy and humanitarian response priorities. Community-based protection interventions and services were central to the response

thanks to the extensive engagement with over 70 community-based protection networks, and in more than 60 multi-purpose community centres (MPCCs) across the country. The MPCCs function as one-stop service points, where conflict-affected people can access protection services delivered by UNHCR's partners, safe spaces for children and women, and for other humanitarian actors to access and implement their service programmes. UNHCR also expanded collaboration with organizations led by forcibly displaced people to strengthen community participation, improve protection monitoring, and enhance localized response capacity.

#### **NFIs**

- In 2025, more than 120,000 households from forcibly displaced and host communities, representing close to 517,000 people received core relief item kits containing essential household supplies. This assistance helped reduce protection, health, and food security risks for displaced and conflict-affected families, and others affected by additional shocks such as fires and floods.

#### **Cash assistance**

- Multi-purpose cash assistance was provided to over 80,100 people, equivalent to approximately 16,955 households, to help them meet basic needs, 64 per cent of whom were internally displaced. Assistance was delivered at the household level, with an average one-time transfer of \$450, aligned with the Sudan Cash Working Group's Minimum Expenditure Basket.

#### **WASH**

- In 2025, system upgrades led to the provision of reliable water supply for nearly 800,000 forcibly displaced and hosting communities, increasing per capita water availability in several locations. The scale of displacement, resulting in increased usage, did not allow for UNHCR and its partners to reach the minimum standards of water provision in all refugee camps.
- Hygiene risk-communication activities, household visits, and community outreach reached nearly 550,000 forcibly displaced people and host community members with the aim of improving hygiene practices and health situation while also preventing the spread of communicable diseases. Around 400,000 people received soap, and more than 220,000 women and girls were provided with sanitary materials. Community volunteers supported these efforts by disseminating key messages to promote positive hygiene practices.

#### **Health & Nutrition**

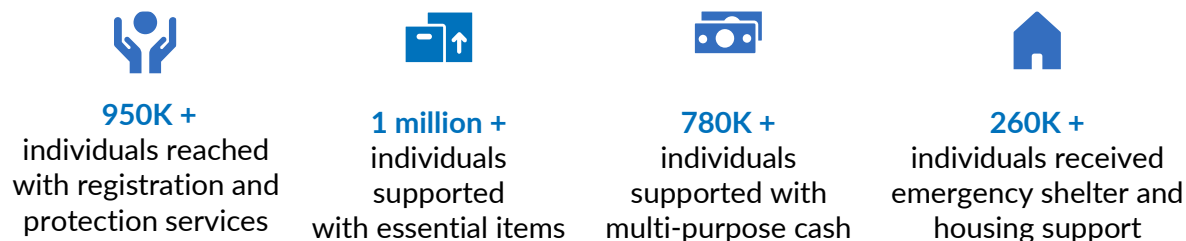
- In 2025, nearly 960,000 outpatient consultations were provided to forcibly displaced people and host community members in primary health care centres situated in refugee camps. Clinician workloads were extremely high, averaging 75 consultations per day—well above the standard threshold of 50, due to increased health care needs, lack of personnel, and limited public services available outside refugee camp settings. More than 3,200 people were referred for secondary care at public health care facilities. Almost 18,000 children under five received measles vaccinations during the year in refugee camps.
- UNHCR supported the operation of cholera treatment centres and units across Sudan, enabling timely case management and infection control. 1,450 cholera cases among refugees were successfully treated in isolation facilities, contributing to reduced mortality and containment of outbreaks within refugee-hosting areas.
- In partnership with WFP and UNICEF, UNHCR supported therapeutic and supplementary feeding programmes addressing acute malnutrition among children under five and pregnant and lactating women. More than 10,000 children were admitted to outpatient therapeutic programmes for severe acute malnutrition without medical complications, while approximately 1,000 children required inpatient stabilization care for severe acute malnutrition with complications. Close to 15,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition

and over 3,850 pregnant and lactating women also received targeted supplementary feeding. Nutrition screening activities were conducted in camps and settlements, with identified cases promptly referred to specialized nutrition centres for further treatment and follow-up.

## NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

### UNHCR's Regional Refugee Response at a glance<sup>1</sup>

#### 2025 KEY FIGURES



Host communities have shown extraordinary hospitality in welcoming Sudanese refugees, but they are also at breaking point, especially in countries where several crises have been converging, such as cholera outbreaks in Sudan, Chad, South Sudan and Ethiopia, and where extreme weather events have also impacted shelters and livelihoods for refugees, IDPs and host communities.

Since the crisis began, UNHCR has been working closely with governments and partners across affected countries to deliver protection and humanitarian assistance. This includes supporting registration efforts, providing essential relief items, and facilitating the relocation of people to safer locations.

“Solutions from the start” continues to guide the response as a means to advance a sustainable approach from the onset of the emergencies to avoid the setup of a parallel humanitarian system but rather work with the authorities in Sudan and neighbouring countries to facilitate the development of integrated settlements, the inclusion of refugees into national systems and improve and improve access to livelihoods through humanitarian-development linkages.

The Regional Refugee Coordinator leads the coordination of the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan. At the country level, the Refugee Coordination Forums are co-led by the Government and UNHCR, while the sector working groups are co-led by different partners, including governments, UN Agencies and NGOs.

<sup>1</sup> Figures refer to assistance provided in seven countries under the regional response in Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan and Uganda.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

### UNHCR operational deliveries in 2025

- 9,932** were registered with UNHCR
- 7,107** refugee households received cash assistance
- 15,000** received non-food items
- 1,078** refugees received housing and shelter support

The Central African Republic (CAR) is currently hosting approximately 42,000 Sudanese refugees, predominantly composed of women and children who enter through isolated northern and eastern border points in Am-Dafock in the Vakaga prefecture. UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) are jointly overseeing border monitoring and coordinating the reception, screening, and registration of newly arriving refugees.

Ongoing insecurity—driven by the presence of armed actors and cross-border movements, including the flow of fighters, weapons, and opportunistic criminal activity originating from Sudan, continues to elevate protection risks and restrict humanitarian access in affected areas. Despite the existence of an out-of-camp policy and a legal framework protecting refugees, persistent funding shortfalls and rising needs are increasingly undermining the provision of essential services, particularly in health, education, WASH, and livelihoods.

Some 12,955 Sudanese refugees are also scattered in hard-to-reach locations in Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou prefectures and are in need of assistance and protection. Although the country maintains an out-of-camp policy and provides legal protection to refugees, persistent funding shortfalls and growing needs increasingly undermine the provision of essential services, including health, education, WASH, and livelihoods support.

### **Protection**

- 9,932 Sudanese refugees have been biometrically registered, 85 per cent of whom are women and children. Biometric registration is underway for the remaining Sudanese refugees who have already been pre-registered.
- Registered refugees also received protection services, including civil documentation; access to basic assistance such as food, shelter, WASH, and health services; referrals to available support; and targeted assistance for individuals with specific needs.
- To strengthen community-based child protection, a protection committee was established in Korsi, composed of 20 members (10 refugees and 10 from the host community), tasked with conducting awareness-raising campaigns on child protection and identifying, reporting, and referring children at risk.
- All documented GBV cases within the four operational safe spaces received comprehensive support, including psychosocial care, medical referrals, dignity kits and cash assistance, while Sudanese refugees and host community members participated in awareness-raising and focus group discussions on GBV causes, consequences and reporting mechanisms.

### **Shelter and NFIs**

- Progress was made in 2025 to enhance shelter and infrastructure for Sudanese refugees in Birao's Korsi neighbourhood, driven by coordinated efforts of humanitarian actors and government partners.
- UNHCR and partners have constructed 858 emergency shelters and 220 durable shelters for Sudanese refugee families in Korsi. In addition, 231 latrines, 144 emergency showers and three boreholes have been constructed.

### Public Health & Nutrition

- In collaboration with the Vakaga Health District and the Birao District Hospital, UNHCR and partners provided primary and secondary healthcare services to both refugees and host communities. Almost 30,248 primary and secondary health consultations were conducted for refugees and host community members, in addition to 1,519 pre-natal consultations.
- Since the beginning of the emergency, more than 9,002 children were screened for malnutrition, 421 cases (5 per cent) treated for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 165 cases (2 per cent) treated for severe acute malnutrition
- 308 refugees benefited from consultations and were treated for mental health.

### Education

- UNHCR and RRRP partners have collaborated closely with the Ministry of Education to support the integration of Sudanese refugees into the Central African education system. Since 2023, Sudanese refugee inclusion in local schools has increased tenfold, with the modest 250 students enrolled in 2023 growing into more than 3,600 Sudanese refugees enrolled today in primary education, secondary education and language bridging programs.
- Since the beginning of the response, UNICEF, UNHCR and other RRRP partners distributed more than 4,500 school kits and supported capacity building for over 150 teachers.
- In 2025, WFP and partners implemented school feeding programmes benefitting more than 3,000 students in key primary schools in Birao, where most newly arrived Sudanese refugees reside and attend school.
- Since the beginning of the response, UNHCR, UNICEF and other RRRP partners constructed nine durable classrooms, more than twenty gender-sensitive latrines, and three academic administrative buildings in Birao, in support of government efforts to accommodate increased student enrolment and strengthen the local education system.
- In 2025, UNHCR worked closely with the Ministry of Higher Education, supported thirty Sudanese refugee university students to complete a French language bridging program and resumed their studies at the University of Bangui. Enrolled in more than twelve fields of study, these thirty Sudanese refugees are the first recipients of the DAFI scholarship in the Central African Republic.



*Iman, a 22-year-old university student from Nyala, Sudan, fled to Korsi in the Central African Republic. Initially hindered by language barriers, she is gradually improving her French through a language bridging program supported by the Mastercard Foundation. © UNHCR/Stella Fatime*

## CHAD

**919,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived in Chad since April 2023**

### UNHCR operational deliveries in 2025

**90,208** were registered by UNHCR

**530,061** refugees received cash assistance

**600,803** received non-food items

**123,680** refugees received housing and shelter support

Chad hosts the second-largest number of Sudanese refugees within the regional response. Even before the current emergency, the country had already received about 410,000 Sudanese refugees over the past two decades. Since the conflict escalated, this number has risen sharply to 1.3 million, and one in three people in eastern Chad is now a refugee.

Many of those fleeing Sudan arrive in areas affected by insecurity along the border and sometimes remain in spontaneous settlements with limited access to shelter, water, health care and education. UNHCR and partners are working to relocate them away from insecure border areas to safer planned settlements with better availability of essential services.

Chad has received over 919,000 new refugees from Sudan as of March 2026, the majority of whom are women and children. Working with and in support of the Government of Chad, UNHCR, other UN agencies, and national and international non-governmental organizations are delivering protection and assistance in border locations and refugee settlements. UNHCR and IOM are also assisting the Government in coordinating the overall humanitarian response. The most pressing

priority is to move refugees away from border areas to planned settlements and to ensure they can access protection services, water, shelter, food, basic household items, health care and education. There is also an urgent need for additional resources to expand settlements in Wadi Fira and Ennedi Est Provinces and ensure access to essential services.

### Protection

- In 2025, considerable progress was achieved in enhancing legal aid and community-based protection for forcibly displaced persons.
- 896,737 new arrivals from Sudan have been pre-registered or registered biometrically. 87 per cent of those registered are women and children, and 13 per cent have specific needs.
- There were 180,091 newly arrived Sudanese refugees in 2025.
- Since April 2023, a total of 614,694 refugees have been relocated to safer areas away from border locations, including 192,456 in 2025.
- 11,410 children with specific needs – including separated and unaccompanied refugee children and other children-at-risk – have been documented across the areas of arrival. The children are referred to receive psychosocial, medical, and legal support on a case-by-case basis.

### Public Health & Nutrition

- UNHCR and its partners, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, continued to deliver primary healthcare services to refugees and host communities through a network of 32 health centres, seven health posts, and two secondary hospitals during the reporting period.
- 1,107,599 medical consultations were carried out in 2025. The most common pathologies included malaria, acute respiratory infections, malnutrition and watery diarrhoea.
- Partners screened 19,972 children for malnutrition in 2025, identifying and treating cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Pregnant and breastfeeding women have also been screened for malnutrition.

### Shelter

- A total of 32,000 new family shelters and 12,165 latrines have been constructed.
- In 2025, the installation of 45 boreholes, 151 water points, 5 storage facilities, and 63,000 meters of pipelines has enabled an average supply of 12 litres of water per person per day. As a result, 86.5 per cent of refugees now have access to safe drinking water, even though this is still below the emergency standard of 15 litres per person per day.

### Education

- Some 199,873 children are enrolled in 287 schools, including 129 new schools established since the start of the emergency.
- 160,017 school kits were distributed to refugee children in 2025.
- Partners have recruited 3,474 education personnel, including 2,642 refugee teachers, 1,038 of whom have been trained.



*Maimouna, a member of the women's association in Farchana, eastern Chad, waters plants at the community agro-project that brings together refugees from the Farchana camp and members of the host community. She is pleased with how the project fosters unity. ©UNHCR/Ala Kheir*

## EGYPT

**1,500,000 Sudanese refugees have fled to Egypt, according to the Government**

### UNHCR operational deliveries in 2025

**805,000** newly arrived Sudanese asylum-seekers have been registered by UNHCR Egypt

**264,000** refugees were registered with UNHCR in 2025

**117,000** Sudanese refugees received cash assistance

**236,000** received non-food relief items at the Egypt-Sudan border

**108,000** were supported with healthcare and education services

According to the latest Government estimates, Egypt is hosting approximately 1.5 million Sudanese refugees who have fled violence in Sudan since 2023. Egypt hosted one of the highest number of Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers globally and received the highest number of asylum applications worldwide in 2025, amid economic pressures and regional instability. Registrations have quadrupled since the start of the Sudan crisis.

Sudanese refugees, as well as all other refugees and asylum-seekers, benefit from the country's out-of-camp policy, living in urban areas of Cairo and the Governorates of the North Coast. Similar to other neighbouring countries affected by the crisis, Egypt was already hosting a substantial refugee population.

For most refugees, including new arrivals from Sudan, a key objective for UNHCR Egypt is to ensure their inclusion in national systems, services and strategies from the onset of emergencies. This approach entails close collaboration with national and local public institutions, development organizations, the private sector and other partners to strengthen policies, enhance government capacity to deliver inclusive services and support refugees in becoming self-reliant.

Throughout 2025, refugees continued to face significant challenges in meeting their basic needs due to administrative barriers, rising living costs and limited access to formal employment opportunities. Funding cuts forced the closure of two out of three registration centres. Available resources have dropped back to 2022, pre-Sudan-crisis levels, despite the increase in the refugee population. Protection/registration, cash, health, and education activities are the most impacted areas.

### Protection

- Since the start of the crisis, more than 1,013,800 Sudanese have been provided with registration appointments, out of whom 805,000 have been fully registered. Priority processing was available for vulnerable individuals. The Protection Working Group (PWG) "Access for All" task force improved communication, identified vulnerable cases, and enhanced access to registration. The UNHCR Registration Appointment Tool further enabled 449,780 individuals to be scheduled for registration appointments in 2025, of which approximately 45 per cent resulted in no-shows.
- UNHCR and partners provide targeted support to persons with specific needs through individual case management, community-based psychosocial support, and emergency response.
- UNHCR provides refugees and asylum-seekers with information about UNHCR and partners' services through different communication channels, including social media and UNHCR Egypt's Help website, which was the most viewed globally in 2025 with 3.6 million views. Moreover, UNHCR provided information on protection, available assistance, and how to report fraud to over 268,000 individuals through on-site awareness sessions.
- UNHCR provides safety and recovery support to survivors of gender-based violence. In 2025, UNHCR Egypt delivered one-off cash assistance to over 1,300 Sudanese survivors of gender-based violence through a Safety Package programme. According to the Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report, this assistance helped most recipients mitigate sexual violence-related risks and enhance their physical protection. Throughout the year, Sudanese survivors disclosed the highest number of gender-based violence incidents (78 per cent) followed by South Sudanese and Eritreans.
- UNHCR and partners supported over 2,100 children at risk, including vulnerable unaccompanied and separated children, with case management.
- Through NGO partners, UNHCR has supported 4,000 individuals with access to legal counselling and assistance.
- In 2025, UNHCR identified resettlement opportunities and complementary pathways for more than 3,000 refugees who fled Sudan.

### NFIs and WASH

- UNHCR delivered 108,900 bottles of drinking water and 9,356 hygiene kits to be distributed at the border crossings between Egypt and Sudan.

### Cash Assistance and Livelihoods

- UNHCR provided bi-monthly Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to over 117,000 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers, helping them cover their most essential needs. However, due to funding shortfalls, 93,000 highly vulnerable Sudanese individuals remained on the MPCA waiting list.
- 51,000 Sudanese refugees received one-off winter cash assistance to meet essential needs, including electricity, clothing, blankets, and heaters.

- UNHCR provided 2,600 refugees and asylum-seekers newly arrived from Sudan (70 per cent women) with livelihood training and assisted them in finding a market for their skills and goods. Moreover, UNHCR disbursed livelihood grants to enable forcibly displaced people to establish or support income-generating activities aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in Egypt.

#### **Public Health**

- UNHCR Egypt delivered approximately 37,500 healthcare consultations to Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers, ensuring access to essential preventative and curative health services. During the same period, 122,000 individuals received services, including chronic disease management, maternal health care for high-risk pregnancies, life-saving medical interventions, and hospital-based care.
- UNHCR continues supporting national efforts to improve the quality of health services to refugees and asylum-seekers and the host population in areas with high concentrations of refugees in Egypt. This entails strengthening the existing national health systems through capacity-building and the provision of equipment.
- Due to the funding cuts, UNHCR Egypt was forced to suspend all medical treatment for refugees except emergency life-saving procedures, placing vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers—especially those needing ongoing chronic, maternal, or specialized care—at increased risk and adding pressure on the health system.

#### **Education**

- In 2025, UNHCR provided education cash grants to more than 68,525 Sudanese refugee children to help cover students' educational expenses, including enrolment, transportation, uniforms, and tuition fees. This assistance is essential for refugees and asylum-seekers to support families to pay for their children's educational expenses and to tailor the assistance to the needs of children with disabilities and unaccompanied or separated children.
- Based on the needs identified by the Ministry of Education, UNHCR provided bridging classes and teacher training, supported the refurbishment of schools, and supplied equipment and other necessities to assist the Egyptian facilities in absorbing the refugee children.
- In 2025, based on the needs identified by the Government of Egypt, UNHCR supported the construction of 8 new classrooms in public schools and the refurbishment of 38 classrooms to assist the Egyptian facilities in absorbing the increasing number of refugee children.



*In March 2025, Sudanese refugee Fatma brought her two-year-old son, Bassel, to a Refugee Egypt clinic in Cairo, one of UNHCR Egypt's partner facilities for treatment of his hearing difficulties. Fatma had fled Sudan for Egypt in April 2024. © UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes*

## ETHIOPIA

**77,400 refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees have been recorded.**

### UNHCR operational deliveries 2025

**8,800** Ethiopian returnees received cash assistance

**23,400** received non-food items

**15,400** refugees received housing and shelter support

Ethiopia continued to uphold its open-door asylum policy, hosting more than 77,000 Sudanese refugees in the country and receiving over 21,000 Ethiopians who had previously been refugees in Sudan and are returning due to the conflict.

Ethiopia has made significant progress toward the voluntary inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in its national identification system, an important milestone in advancing the country's commitments under the Global Compact on Refugees and the Nairobi Declaration. The rollout of the national digital ID (Fayda ID) to refugees is gradually enabling them to access a wider range of services previously restricted due to a lack of documentation. This includes formal employment opportunities, work permits, the ability to open bank and mobile money accounts, and enhanced freedom of movement for work or education. The initiative also strengthens protection by reducing reliance on informal or insecure means of identification and facilitates better inclusion of refugees into national systems such as health, education, and social services.

### Protection

- Registration activities are ongoing at the Kurmuk Transit Centre in the Benishangul Gumuz region with 33,645 individuals (10,989 households) registered as of 31 December 2025.

- Biometric Level 3 (L3) registration is ongoing for refugees relocated from the Kurmuk Transit Centre to the Ura refugee site. As of December 2025, a total of 11,595 individuals successfully underwent the L3 registration and verification exercise at the Ura refugee site. In addition, 9,012 individuals were recorded for the National ID Programme, and a total of 2,138 individuals were issued with digital Fayda ID
- In the Amhara region, at the Metema transit centre, 22,797 individuals (14,769 households) were registered by 31 December 2025. Registration remains suspended at the Metema entry point due to the security situation in the area.
- UNHCR established the Aftit refugee site in the Amhara region in 2024, relocating refugees from the Metema Transit Centre and the closed refugee site in Awlala. The Aftit refugee site can accommodate up to 10,000 individuals and currently hosts 9,022 individuals (4,217 households). In the Benishangul Gumuz region, 14,581 individuals (5,140 households) have been relocated from Kurmuk Transit Centre to the Ura refugee site.
- Unaccompanied and separated children and other vulnerable children have been registered and receive comprehensive child protection support, including foster family arrangements where possible.

### Public Health

- Over 71,000 outpatient consultations were provided, at Aftit and Ura settlements and the Kurmuk and Metema transit centres.
- Community-based disease surveillance and health awareness sessions were conducted by outreach workers.

### Cash Assistance

- At the end of 2025, Ethiopian refugee returnees from Sudan were provided Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to 8,865 individuals (1,773 households). This unrestricted, unconditional cash assistance enables vulnerable populations to meet their essential needs with dignity while promoting financial independence and contributing to local economies.



*A refugee woman looks over at the Ura refugee settlement in Ethiopia's Benishangul Gumuz region, where Sudanese refugee arrivals live side by side with their local hosts. The Ura refugee settlement was established in 2024, where new arrivals from Sudan are being hosted. ©UNHCR/Sona Dadi*

## LIBYA

**89,100 refugees registered with UNHCR at the end of December 2025**

### UNHCR operational deliveries 2025

**3,700** refugees received cash assistance

**88,600** received non-food items

**282,700** refugees reached through protection outreach activities

**25,900** refugees received specialised protection services

Libya has received more than 550,000 people fleeing Sudan since April 2023, though only about 89,153 Sudanese have been registered at its registration centre in Tripoli. Sudanese refugees enter Libya primarily through Alkufra (82 per cent), with smaller numbers arriving via Tobruk (6 per cent) and the southeastern border with Chad (12 per cent). However, insecurity in Sudan's Triangle area since March 2025 and increased border controls by Libyan authorities have forced refugees to use longer and more dangerous routes, and arrivals via Chad remain steady at 100-150 per day. Some refugees arriving by this route make their way to Alkufra to receive assistance. Others have remained in the south of Libya in Sabha, or continue moving towards the bigger cities. Currently, between 40,000 and 45,000 Sudanese refugees are estimated to be living in Alkufra. Livelihood opportunities in Alkufra remain highly competitive and difficult to secure, prompting most Sudanese refugees to move onward to other cities such as Ajdabiya, Benghazi, and Tripoli in search of better prospects and schooling for their children.

Women and children account for over 63 per cent of new arrivals, and refugees face severe shortages in shelter, healthcare, WASH services, and education. Without adequate support, the risk of onward movement, including dangerous Mediterranean crossings, remains high. In response to the growing emergency, UNHCR has substantially scaled up its operations in Libya despite the challenging security environment and operational constraints. With offices in Tripoli and Benghazi, and outposted teams in Ajdabiya, Sebha and Alkufra, UNHCR continues to adapt its response to meet the evolving needs of refugees and the communities hosting them.

Recent changes to the registration process in the East, requiring documentation, a Libyan sponsor, and payment of LYD 500 per person (approximately \$80), have made it difficult for the majority of refugees to register with the authorities, making their access to humanitarian assistance in Alkufra challenging, and leaving them at risk of arrest and deportation. In addition to these changes, only refugees medically cleared of infectious diseases can be registered with the authorities, or they are deported.

Reduced funding has left many destitute, compelling them to make desperate decisions, including taking the perilous journey across the Mediterranean. In 2025, Sudanese refugees were one of the top nationalities disembarked in Libya following rescue or interceptions at sea, representing ten per cent of the 26,635 migrants and refugees recorded by IOM/UNHCR considered figures as having been returned to Libya during the year. In addition, 3,789 Sudanese refugees arrived in Italy by sea, coming from Libya, accounting for nearly seven per cent of the 56,065 sea arrivals recorded in 2025. This places Sudanese refugees as the fifth-largest nationality group among arrivals to Italy from Libya as of 30 November 2025. By the end of 2025, 7,403 Sudanese refugees arrived in Greece from Libya, embarking from Tobruk in the East; making up the majority of refugees arriving by sea from Libya

### Protection

- UNHCR and partners have registered 89,153 Sudanese refugees by the end of 2025, including 71,306 who arrived following the onset of the conflict.

- Registration capacity averaged around 2,900 individuals per month, reflecting a range of operational constraints, including capacity and funding-related challenges.
- UNHCR and Protection Task Force partners provided protection services to nearly 166,029 Sudanese refugees across Libya in 2025. This included increased registration efforts in Tripoli, regular monitoring visits to detention facilities in Tripoli, Benghazi and Alkufra, and ongoing advocacy on access and the prevention of deportation linked to public health concerns.
- UNHCR also supports registration of Sudanese refugees by authorities in Alkufra, which allows for freedom of movement in eastern Libya. UNHCR delivered four Rubb halls and twelve mobile latrines to Alkufra centre to facilitate registration activities by authorities for Sudanese refugees coming into Alkufra, their main entry point into Libya.
- Protection assessments conducted with over 15,500 households found that 93 per cent had crossed into Libya through unofficial border points, exposing them to serious risks including smuggling, trafficking, assault, and detention. Ten per cent reported having attempted to cross into Europe in search of safety and better opportunities.

#### **Shelter and NFIs**

- As part of the Sudan emergency response, 88,663 Sudanese refugees received essential relief assistance at major points, including Alkufra, Benghazi, Sabha, and Tripoli.
- To address shelter needs, UNHCR provided 23,000 tarpaulins for newly arrived refugees in Alkufra, Benghazi, Tripoli, and other key locations.

#### **Community support projects**

- To strengthen public services, UNHCR and partners implemented 16 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in 2025, benefiting over 32,160 refugees and more than 272,000 Libyan host community members across multiple municipalities. These projects included the rehabilitation and support of eight health facilities, the construction of one children's playground in the east and south in partnership with ACTED, and the rehabilitation of seven schools in the west directly by UNHCR.

#### **Public Health**

- UNHCR supported healthcare services in Libya by providing medical equipment and essential supplies to facilities in Benghazi and Tripoli, reaching an estimated 77,000 refugees and Libyan host community members. These supplies included personal protective equipment, diagnostic consumables, and essential medical items such as masks, gloves, pulse oximeters, blood pressure monitors, and hospital beds, strengthening service delivery in high-demand public health facilities.



Mokhtar, a 37-year-old Sudanese refugee from Khartoum, fled the war in February 2024 with his wife and four children. Now in Tripoli with his family, Mokhtar continues to do everything he can to provide for his family. Through UNHCR support, he received core relief items, helping meet essential needs and easing some of the challenges of displacement. ©UNHCR/Ziyad Alhamdi.

## SOUTH SUDAN

**1,313,100 new arrivals have been recorded.**

### UNHCR operational deliveries in 2025

**61,700** individuals received cash assistance

**57,000** persons affected by sexual violence received assistance

**65,700** refugees and asylum-seekers were registered

**30,700** refugees received non-food items

**23,200** individuals received habitable shelter support

**192,000** refugees relocated to refugee camps/settlements

South Sudan remains a critical frontline country in the regional response to the Sudan crisis, continuing to uphold access to territory and asylum for those fleeing conflict. By the end of 2025, over 421,700 Sudanese refugees had been received since the onset of the emergency, with numbers continuing to rise into 2026. Since April 2023, close to 1 million South Sudanese returnees have arrived from Sudan, placing additional strain on already overstretched infrastructure and basic services. Many returnees remain unable to reintegrate due to limited support, contributing to secondary displacement within South Sudan. The country simultaneously faces a deepening humanitarian crisis driven by conflict, economic deterioration, climate shocks, and widespread displacement, including an estimated 2 million IDPs.

The response in 2025 unfolded against a backdrop of multiple, overlapping shocks. Renewed fighting between government and opposition forces in March triggered fresh displacement, forcing over 276,500 people to flee internally and an estimated 200,000 to neighbouring countries. At the same time, cholera outbreaks and seasonal flooding affected more than one million people

nationwide, displacing hundreds of thousands more and compounding already severe humanitarian needs. Political instability, economic decline, and growing donor fatigue as the Sudan crisis entered its third year further constrained response capacity.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian partners sustained assistance throughout 2025, reaching more than 180,000 new arrivals, including supporting 66,099 learners with education services, and delivering food assistance to approximately 300,000 people through in-kind and cash modalities. Livelihoods programmes assisted 14,630 people, contributing to self-reliance and local economic participation.

While humanitarian and development actors continue to scale up their response, needs consistently outpace available resources. The Sudan response remained severely underfunded at the end of 2025, forcing partners, particularly in key entry points such as Renk (Upper Nile State), to scale down services, reduce operational presence, and prioritize only the most life-saving interventions. At the same time, efforts are gradually shifting from emergency response toward more sustainable systems, including the rehabilitation of transit infrastructure, expansion of water and sanitation services, and strengthened border monitoring and coordination mechanisms. A [South Sudan Country Response Plan](#) was published in January 2026 and guides the refugee inter-agency response.

### Protection

- Strengthened biometric registration and referral systems enabled the registration of 65,737 individuals, while 137,102 people accessed protection services.
- UNHCR's biometric registration for refugees, so far at 278,357 individuals, is ongoing.
- UNHCR, IOM, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Immigration (DNPI), and partners have established a presence at official border points, identifying vulnerable populations and recording arrival data. Protection assessments, monitoring and counselling are also available
- UNHCR facilitates the transportation and relocation from borders, such as Renk and Abyei, to refugee-hosting locations when funding is available. The maintenance of the Renk transit site remains a priority in the emergency response.

### Shelter and NFIs

- Partners rehabilitate and increase the shelter capacity of reception and transit centres and refugee settlements in close coordination with local authorities and communities.
- Shelter support reached 23,269 individuals.
- 11 reception and transit centres were set up in addition to 117 communal shelters.
- Core relief items are provided to new arrivals based on vulnerability, although coverage remains constrained by funding shortfalls.



*Through the ongoing repair and maintenance of water points in Maban's refugee camps, families now have reliable access to clean water. To complement these efforts, UNHCR also provided essential non-food items, including buckets and jerrycans, enabling households to safely collect, store, and transport water.*  
© UNHCR/ Reason Moses Runyanga

### Public Health & Nutrition

- Mobile health clinics have been established at reception and transit centres, providing immediate life-saving interventions and inhibiting health outbreaks. Outreach volunteers are trained to raise awareness of health issues. In Renk, severe cases are referred to Renk County Hospital. However, the hospital is unable to cater to increased admission rates.
- 350,000 individual primary consultations were facilitated in 15 UNHCR-supported health facilities.
- Life-saving food assistance is provided at entry points, reception and transit centres through the provision of cash assistance. However, food provision remains low due to funding constraints. UNHCR and partners continue to closely monitor malnutrition rates among new arrivals.

### WASH

- UNHCR and its partners supported 387,627 people with access to safe water and sanitation.
- Partners provide access to at least 15 litres of potable water per person per day at all new arrival sites via trucking, pipeline extensions or new boreholes. Communal latrines and bathing facilities have been established; however, latrine coverage across the emergency remains dire, falling short of emergency standards. This remains a key concern given the high risk of cholera.

## UGANDA

88,200 refugees have arrived since the conflict started in mid-April 2023.

### UNHCR operational deliveries in 2025

27,500 refugees were registered

13,400 refugees received non-food items

13,400 refugees received housing and shelter support

25,400 refugees received cash assistance



*Abdalla interacts with her four sons at her mother's home in Cluster L in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in Uganda. Abdalla fled the war in Sudan and reached the Elegu border (Between Uganda and South Sudan) on 1st January 2024 and was settled in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement on 12th March 2024. © UNHCR/Ssozi Mukasa Daniel*

Uganda, despite not sharing a border with Sudan, has received over 88,000 Sudanese refugees, adding to more than 1.9 million refugees already in the country. These refugees benefit from Uganda's progressive refugee framework, which guarantees freedom of movement, the right to work, and access to national services and the allocation of land for cultivation in many settlements. Uganda's inclusion approach—supported by the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)—ensures that refugees can enrol in national schools and health facilities, participate in local economies, and access livelihood opportunities alongside host communities. This model not only enhances refugee self-reliance but also promotes social cohesion and shared development gains in refugee-hosting districts.

In February 2026, the Government of Uganda issued a directive lifting prima facie refugee recognition for new asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan and South Sudan, transitioning to individual Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures. The Government clarified that the decision is not intended to close Uganda's open-door policy and that individuals previously granted refugee status will retain their protection in accordance with national law and Uganda's international obligations.

Sudanese refugees predominantly reside in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, which has been designated as the primary reception and registration point for this population. Refugees settled in Kiryandongo received regular refugee response benefits, which included humanitarian assistance such as food, education, healthcare services and emergency shelter items, while those in Kampala benefitted from policy and advocacy support to reduce barriers to accessing jobs and livelihoods, as urban refugees were expected to be self-reliant.

The continuous influx of Sudanese refugees has severely strained facilities and resources, with overcrowding at transit centres, inadequate water supply, and sanitation challenges. Overcrowded classrooms and insufficient teaching capacity in Kiryandongo hampered access to quality education, further exacerbated by long travel distances for new arrivals.

### Protection

- A total of 6,299 Sudanese children received various child protection services, including case management, mental health and psychosocial support, and access to information about available services.
- 152 Sudanese GBV survivors were provided with psychosocial support representing 99 per cent of those in need of support; 24 per cent received livelihood services; 8 per cent received medical care; and 10 per cent were referred to the legal system in 2025 based on need and consent.

### Cash assistance

- A total of 25,413 refugees received cash assistance. New arrivals in Kiryandongo were provided a one-time unconditional cash grant of \$76, while socio-economically vulnerable families received six months of multi-purpose cash assistance of \$15 per person per month.

### Education

- By the end of 2025, 15.1 per cent of Sudanese refugee children were enrolled in pre-primary education totally 743 children; 17.9 per cent were enrolled in primary education totalling 2,861; 1.9 per cent in secondary education totalling 207.
- Additionally, 19 Sudanese were enrolled under the DAFI university scholarship programme across various universities.

## Thank you for your support

On behalf of the people we serve, and everyone at UNHCR, thank you for your continued support and solidarity with those forced to flee the conflict in Sudan.

Your contribution has helped deliver life-saving assistance, protection, and essential supplies to the most vulnerable refugees and IDPs affected by the crisis.

Your ongoing support for displaced families remains as vital today as ever.

## Ongoing priority needs

As more people continue to be displaced, UNHCR, in collaboration with national authorities and the humanitarian community, is prioritizing the delivery of life-saving assistance and protection, including shelters, clean water, healthcare, education, and site management for refugees and IDPs. UNHCR is also engaging with development actors to facilitate support to host communities with the inclusion of refugees in expanded national services, to foster resilience and self-reliance, and for the sustainable reintegration of returnees.

Humanitarian programmes across Sudan and the refugee-hosting countries need sustained international support to respond. The consequences of underfunding have been felt across areas of intervention, including emergency response, as the organization had to scale back its operations and reduce its workforce by a third. The food basket in most hosting countries only partially met the recommended dietary needs of refugees, leading to food insecurity and exacerbating harmful coping mechanisms. Protection services, including critical sexual violence response services in transit centres, were scaled back due to limited funding, such as in Ethiopia. Registration and access to documentation are also affected by long waiting periods for asylum-seekers. Inside Sudan, access to primary health care, mental health services, and essential medicines, supplies, and vaccines was severely disrupted for approximately 380,000 people. In Chad, 55,000 families were unable to secure adequate shelter by the end of the year, while water, sanitation, and hygiene services also remain critically insufficient, with an estimated 15,000 latrines and 200 water points still required to meet basic needs. These services are all critical to refugee well-being and need to be strengthened in 2026.

With the possibility of protracted displacement, UNHCR and its partners must strengthen the focus on addressing development and resilience needs to foster greater stability and self-sufficiency alongside the humanitarian response. In 2026, greater efforts will be invested in the seven main refugee-hosting countries to include refugees in national social services, particularly health and education, as well as financial and economic inclusion.

Asylum countries are affected by climate disasters on an annual basis, impacting the humanitarian response. Despite their own challenges, the generosity of these countries continues and needs to be supported.

## The importance of flexible funding

Flexible funding enables UNHCR to launch emergency responses quickly, support underfunded or overlooked crises and implement programmes to their full potential. It also allows for more effective planning and resource management, contributing directly to lives protected, supported, and saved.

Flexible emergency funding continues to make it possible to deliver urgently needed non-food items, health kits, essential shelter materials, and protection assistance. It also ensures that field teams can be deployed to border crossings to organize reception and relocation of new arrivals where needed and enables UNHCR to adapt rapidly to shifting conflict lines in an unpredictable environment.

To all donors, especially those providing flexible, unearmarked contributions, UNHCR expresses its deepest appreciation.