UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

SUDAN EMERGENCY

UNHCR SUPPLEMENTARY APPEAL 2024

DECEMBER 2023

A barge leaves a port in Renk heading to Malakal and other destinations with hundreds of South Sudanese returnees on board. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

COVER PHOTO: A South Sudanese refugee in Um Sangour refugee camp in Sudan after having fled violence in Khartoum. © UNHCR/Ala Kheir

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Overview

UNHCR's total financial requirements for 2024 for the Sudan situation emergency response – in Sudan and neighbouring countries – amount to **$988.1 million**.

Planning figures in Sudan and neighbouring countries*

5,512,279
Total planning figure

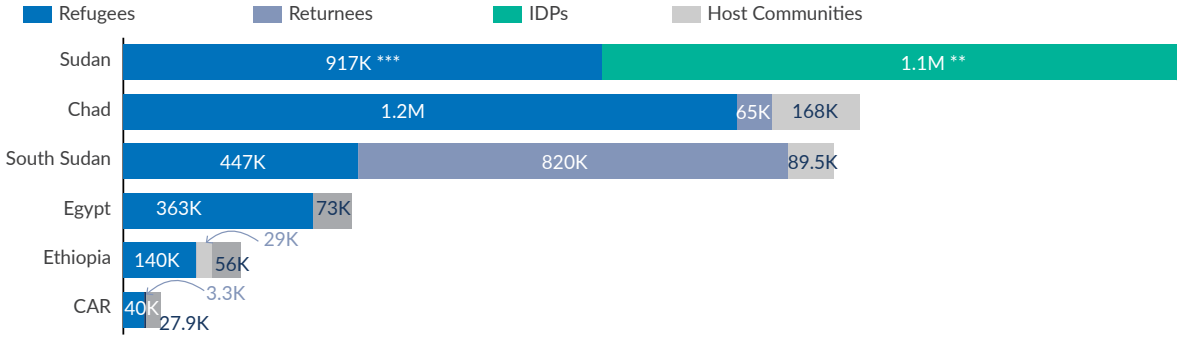
3,080,674
Total projected Refugees (Sudanese and other nationalities)

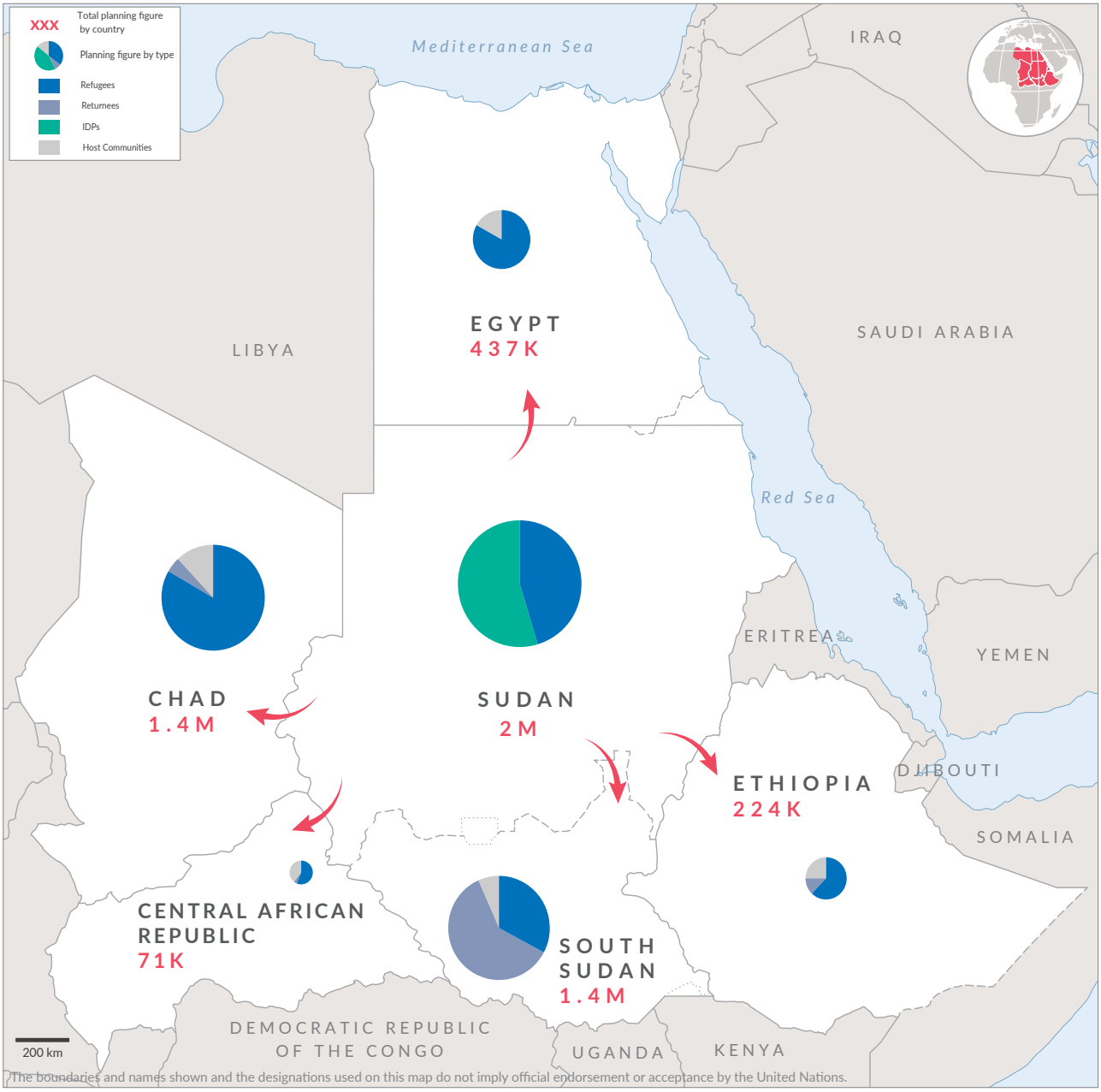
917,300
Total projected Returnees

1,100,000 **
Total projected IDPs

414,305
Total projected Host Communities

Planning figures





The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

* UNHCR's Sudan Supplementary Appeal 2024 is aligned with the Sudan RRRP 2024. However, the Supplementary Appeal does not include Third Country Nationals in its planning figures as IOM leads on the response to this population group.

** Out of the total of 7.1 million estimated IDPs in Sudan at the end of 2023.

*** Some 195,000 of this figure have been secondarily displaced within Sudan, a number that is projected to reach 231,000 by the end of 2024.

Main developments in the emergency

More and more people have been forced to flee since Sudan's devastating conflict erupted in April 2023. By December 2023, 5.4 million people had been displaced within Sudan and another 1.4 million had fled across the borders into Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan. According to reporting from UN OCHA, more than 12,000 people have been killed and 25 million people are in need of humanitarian aid in Sudan.

Even before April, more than 3.7 million Sudanese were internally displaced, mainly in the Darfur region, many of whom have now been displaced again. The country also hosted the second highest refugee population in Africa, 1.1 million people, mostly from South Sudan, Eritrea, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ethiopia, but also from the CAR, Chad and Yemen.

An escalation of fighting in Darfur in late October has generated deeply alarming reports of sexual violence, torture, arbitrary killings, extortion of civilians and targeting of specific ethnic groups. Large numbers of people have escaped across the border. In the first week of November alone, more than 8,000 fled into Chad – likely an underestimate due to the challenge of registering new arrivals. UNHCR, the Government of Chad and partners on the ground are preparing for more arrivals.

The conflict has not only displaced millions of Sudanese but also many of the refugees who were in Sudan when the crisis erupted. An estimated 195,000 refugees self-relocated after being displaced from Khartoum, Darfur and the Kordofan states, a number that is projected to reach 231,000 by the end of 2024. UNHCR is scaling up to register them and meet their needs for protection monitoring, water, sanitation, hygiene, shelter, relief items and health care.

Displacement is expected to continue within Sudan and into neighbouring countries, driven by the conflict, insecurity, economic collapse, and the deterioration of public services such as health care and education, or their complete collapse in some areas. The delivery of humanitarian assistance inside Sudan and across the border from Chad is being hampered by the hostilities, insecurity and crime. Many aid agencies, including UNHCR and its partners, have been forced to temporarily suspend activities in some locations, with serious repercussions for people relying on humanitarian assistance and protection to survive.

The most significant cross-border movements remain Sudanese refugees arriving in Chad and Egypt, South Sudanese returning home in adverse conditions, and refugees in Sudan fleeing into neighbouring countries. The latest data on the numbers leaving the country can be found on UNHCR's Operational Data Portal.

Meeting urgent humanitarian needs

In countries neighbouring Sudan, 2.1 million refugees and over 917,000 returnees are expected to be in need of assistance in 2024. UNHCR also plans to assist 400,000 people in the communities living in close proximity to refugee settlements or as part of integrated settlements. There may also be a smaller number of third-country nationals who were not necessarily registered as refugees or asylum-seekers in Sudan who have international protection concerns and will be supported with protection and assistance interventions.

UNHCR coordinates and leads the Regional Refugee Response Plan and is scaling up its protection response, including registration, provision of emergency shelter and core relief items, and relocation to safer sites, in consultation with the concerned governments, authorities and partners. It is also seeking to mobilize much needed development investment to complement the humanitarian response by supporting refugees' inclusion in national services and the economy, and returnees' sustainable reintegration.

UNHCR has maintained a sizeable response in hard-to-reach areas of Sudan, including where humanitarian access allows a cross-border response from Chad. UNHCR has expanded its response across all the eastern states and in the north, where its response to the internal displacement of Sudanese people is largely new.

Within Sudan, UNHCR is meeting needs for emergency shelter and relief items, including by providing cash assistance. This support aims to reach the most vulnerable among those newly displaced, where they are accessible. UNHCR also undertakes protection monitoring, identifies persons with specific needs, and is establishing help and case management desks in camps and gathering sites where IDPs are sheltered. In addition, UNHCR is focusing on protection through a community-based response suited to a situation where most displaced people live in the community rather than in camps. This will help people to have more equal access to services and will strengthen the social cohesion between communities in areas of displacement. UNHCR's response means communities act as first-line responders, and they have more resilience and capacity for action.

UNHCR also leads the coordination of IDP interventions for protection, shelter and non-food items, and camp coordination and camp management.

UNHCR is working closely with IOM at border crossings to help all people fleeing Sudan, register those in need of protection, identify the most vulnerable and help determine the different population groups leaving the country. Most new arrivals enter neighbouring countries through very remote border locations where humanitarian partners provide critical life-saving assistance and facilitate onward movement in extremely difficult conditions requiring extensive logistical arrangements. People are assisted to move onward to either camps or settlements for refugees and places of preferred destination for the returnees. In some locations, the new arrivals opted to self-relocate due to the slow pace of the movement, congestion in transit and feeling of insecurity in border areas.

To scale up activities to address the rapidly growing needs, on 21 December the Level 3 Emergency declaration for Chad, Egypt, South Sudan and Sudan was extended for three months. On 21 November, the Level 2 emergency declaration for the CAR and Ethiopia was extended for three months.

More than 160,000 Sudanese who fled into Chad since April 2023 still live in makeshift shelters in the spontaneous refugee site in the border town of Adre. They urgently need relocation to safer areas with better access to life-saving support.

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Priorities in the response

In collaboration with national authorities and the humanitarian community, UNHCR and its partners are prioritizing the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection, while undertaking contingency and response planning to be able to protect and assist people as more arrive.

The priorities within Sudan include:

- Providing life-saving support, protection services and basic self-reliance opportunities to internally displaced Sudanese;
- Providing life-saving support for refugees inside Sudan, including those considered as secondary movers, with health, water, sanitation, hygiene, shelter and protection services inside camps. Camps will be expanded, and new settlements will be established to accommodate refugees moving from urban areas; and
- Supporting inter-agency cluster coordination by ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated approach to IDP assistance.

UNHCR and its partners will support the countries neighbouring Sudan to:

- Ensure access to territory and asylum for all individuals in need of international protection, in compliance with the principle of non-refoulement and the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum;
- Provide timely and life-saving protection and humanitarian assistance for all those fleeing Sudan, with a specific focus on identifying and supporting the most vulnerable and those most at risk in need of specialized protection interventions and other services; and
- Include people fleeing Sudan in national systems, particularly health and education, and enable them to live in integrated settlements or rural or urban areas, and to earn a livelihood.

In all its work, UNHCR will prioritize the following:

- Accountability to affected populations: programming decisions and actions will be responsive to the expressed priorities, needs, capacities and views of all refugees, returnees, and others;
- All interventions will be designed, implemented and monitored through rights-based, community-based, and age, gender and diversity approaches. A special focus will be on the needs of persons with disabilities and elderly persons, who make up considerable percentages of any affected population;
- Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse;
- Localization, involving local participation and the voices of local actors in shaping efforts to find more predictable and inclusive solutions to the plight of refugees; and
- Efforts to make its work climate-smart and environmentally sound.

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Coordination and partnerships

UNHCR is working with 81 inter-agency partners in the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)[3]. In Sudan, UNHCR responds to this emergency in partnership with others and contributes to the system-wide scale-up of the humanitarian response. UNHCR is grateful for the collaboration with its partners in responding to the new displacement realities in Sudan.

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR is facilitating coordination mechanisms in each country with the aim to support the host government, ensure a multistakeholder approach and lay the groundwork for solutions from the start, importantly through timely engagement of development actors.

The implementation of the Sudan Regional RRP is in line with the Refugee Coordination Model, in close collaboration with inter-agency partners and other stakeholders.

UNHCR leads the Protection cluster, CCCM and the Shelter/NFI cluster in Sudan and will continue coordination and advocacy with the authorities.

[3] UN agencies and some INGOs are operational in more than one country and are therefore counted only once as a member of the Regional Refugee Response Plan although their interventions may vary by country.

In Sudan, the population of Um Sangour refugee camp doubled and its only primary health care facility now receives 700 patients daily.

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Supplementary appeal budget

UNHCR's total requirements for 2024 for the Sudan situation emergency response amounts to **$988.1 million** which includes $844.4 million in previously approved requirements, and a $143.7 million supplementary budget.

Summary of 2024 requirements for the Sudan Situation (USD)

Country	ExCom approved budget[4]	Supplementary budget	Total requirements for 2024
CAR	7,764,331	14,235,669	22,000,000
Chad	125,300,000	89,500,000	214,800,000
Egypt	54,726,313	-	54,726,313
Ethiopia	81,309,078	-	81,309,078
South Sudan	166,306,479	25,000,000	191,306,479
Sudan	408,964,038	15,000,000	423,964,038
Total	**844,370,239**	**143,735,669**	**988,105,908**

[4] This includes reallocations to the Sudan situation within the ExCom approved budget.

The operational and coordination environment is complex, spanning six UNHCR country operations and three of UNHCR's regional bureaux. Operations in Sudan and neighbouring countries are already hosting large pre-existing refugee and IDP populations and continue to be severely underfunded, with this new emergency creating significant additional needs.

UNHCR's new total requirements of $988.1 million are within the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan 2024 and partially reflected in the Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan 2024.

The importance of flexible funding

In emergency situations such as Sudan, the response can be hugely enhanced if UNHCR has flexible funding available – financial contributions that are not earmarked for use elsewhere. By providing flexible funds, donors can help UNHCR to kick-start an emergency response, bolster forgotten or under-resourced crises, and implement programmes to their full extent. Flexible funds also enable UNHCR to plan and manage resources efficiently and effectively, contributing to the collective success in every life that is transformed and saved.

The humanitarian response in Sudan, the CAR, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan was already significantly underfunded at the start of the fighting in April 2023.

Flexible funding for emergency responses will allow for the delivery of much needed core relief items and health kits, essential shelter supplies and protection assistance to households. Field teams will be able to deploy immediately to border crossing points to organize the reception and relocation of new arrivals where necessary. Flexible funding will allow UNHCR to adapt to shifting conflict lines and a situation that remains unpredictable.

To all donors, especially those who provide funding that is flexible and not earmarked for a particular use, UNHCR extends its most sincere thanks.

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COVER PHOTO: Hana was a refugee in Khartoum when the conflict broke out. She fled back to her home country of South Sudan, but tragically lost both of her babies due to health complications. Increasing rates of measles and malnutrition in Sudan's camps are claiming the lives of young children, and measles is being reported among people arriving in South Sudan.

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For more information

Visit Global Focus, UNHCR's main operational reporting portal for donors and other key partners. The site provides an overview of the protection risks that refugees and other populations of concern to UNHCR face across the world, as well as regularly updated information about programmes, operations, financial requirements, funding levels and donor contributions.

UNHCR Global Focus Sudan Operation page

UNHCR's Operational Data Portal (ODP) for the Sudan Situation provides daily updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in Sudan's neighbouring countries.

UNHCR Sudan Emergency website

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