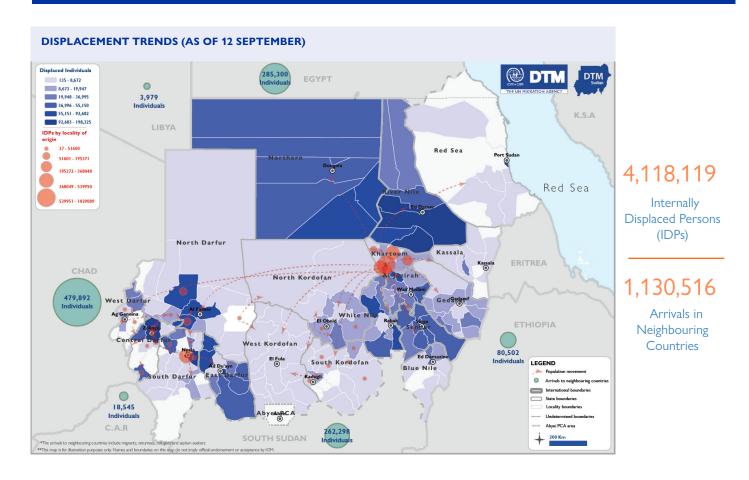


# REGIONAL SUDAN RESPONSE SITUATION UPDATE 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

IOM calls on all parties to ensure the safety of humanitarians and allow their unrestricted access to be able to assist those most vulnerable. IOM's Revised Response Overview for the Sudan Crisis and Neighbouring Countries contributes to addressing the humanitarian needs inside Sudan and the complexities of a mixed movements response that is inclusive of the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrant returnees, third country nationals (TCNs), host communities, refugees and Government entities responding to the crisis. IOM's planned response was coordinated with Governments and humanitarian partners.



## SITUATION OVERVIEW

The leader of Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), Lt. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, continuing his regional tour, met with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, during which the Emir reportedly reiterated calls for dialogue and peaceful ways to end the conflict. In his fourth regional visit, Lt. General AL Burhan met with Eritrean President, Isaias Afwerki, in an effort to strengthen ties between the two nations. Unconfirmed reports also point to a second meeting between Lt. General Al Burhan and the leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement - North/Al Hilu (SPLM-N/AH) in Asmara, Eritrea. In a recent audio recording, Rapid Support Forces (RSF) Commander, Lt. General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, "Hemedti," stated that the intent of RSF is to liberate Sudan and that since the conflict broke out, RSF has tripled in size. On 6 September, Lt. General Al Burhan issued a decree dissolving the 2017 law that established the paramilitary forces RSF, along with associated 2019 amendments. In the meantime, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs thanked the Red Sea State government for granting the land for the construction of the new Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Port Sudan. On 9 September, the Central Bank of Sudan announced the restoration of all electronic banking systems.

Following last week's meeting between the African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson, Moussa Faki, and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) Political Advisor, Youssif Izzat, the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement denouncing the meeting. In response, the AU spokesperson released a statement reiterating the AU's efforts to resolve the current crisis through the interaction with all parties, regardless of their affiliation, to encourage them to end the war and engage in a political process. Not deviating from



the same holding line as the first statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a second statement in response continuing to condemn the actions from the AU.

The Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' rejection of AU and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) peace efforts were also voiced after the second IGAD Quarter Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, organized to take stock of the implementation of the IGAD Roadmap for peace in Sudan. On 6 September, the IGAD released a communiqué condemning the ongoing war in Sudan, calling on parties to cease hostilities and, whilst noting the invitation to participate in the Jeddah process, it advocated for the consolidation of all peace initiatives under one framework to comprehensively addresses the conflict, humanitarian access and long-term political dialogue to deliver comprehensive and lasting peace. In a similar line, the Arab League Council of Foreign Ministers emphasized the need to preserve Sudan's territorial integrity and sovereignty and rejected external interferences in Sudan's affairs. On 8 September, the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement renewing its rejection of Kenya's chairmanship of the IGAD Quartet as biased, threatened to reconsider its membership in the IGAD and criticized the communiqué for failing to condemn the alleged violations committed by the RSF. On 9 September, during a visit to Damazine, Blue Nile, Lt. General Al Burhan reportedly also rejected the AU's interference in Sudanese affairs as it seeks to mediate a peace agreement with a vision to return to pre-conflict terms and called on the AU to correct its position.

On 6 September, United States (US) Treasure Department sanctioned Abdelrahim Hamdan Dagalo for his leadership of the RSF, and as a commitment to hold accountable those responsible for serious and extensive human rights abuses. The US Department of State imposed visa restrictions on another RSF General and West Darfur Sector Commander, Abdul Rahman Juma, for his alleged involvement in the gross violation of human rights.

Clashes continued across various districts of Khartoum, in what are deemed to be strategic locations, including Al Shajara Armoured Corps, with RSF and SAF claiming respective victories over one another. At least 32 casualties were reported in Ombada, Omdurman, whilst the Emergency Room of Janoub Al-Hizam reported at least 40 casualties in the neighbourhood of Mayo in South Khartoum. An additional 13 casualties were reported in East Khartoum whilst other reports speak of a deadly drone attack south of the capital. In Nyala, South Darfur, similar to previous weeks, fighting between SAF And RSF continued with attacks reported in residential areas. In parallel, inter-communal clashes between the Beni Halba and Salamat tribes were also reported in Markonda, 130 kilometers west of Nyala. In El Fasher, North Darfur, fighting between the RSF and SAF resumed – it is reported that fighting resumed as a result of an RSF incursion on the Abu Shouk IDP camp market protected by the Armed Struggle Movement (ASM). In relation to this, Governor of Darfur, Minni Minawi, expressed concern over the threat of RSF attacks on ASM joint forces from Kosti to Darfur disrupting the protection of humanitarian aid convoys. In West Darfur, inter-communal clashes were reported in Sirba causing the displacement of approximately 3,100 households. In El Obeid, North Kordofan, intermittent fighting between RSF and SAF was also reported. In the proximity of Kadugli, South Kordofan, clashes continued between SPLM-N/AH. Clashes between SAF and SPLM-N/AH were also reported in Abu Kershola locality, South Kordofan.

DTM Sudan estimates that 4,118,119 individuals (822,894 households) have been recently internally displaced. The IDP caseload has been observed in 3,855 locations across all of Sudan's 18 states. The highest proportions of IDPs have been observed in River Nile (12.24%), South Darfur (11.74%), East Darfur (11.50%), Northern (8.87%), Sennar (7.79%), and North Darfur (7.05%). Field teams report that the IDPs observed were originally displaced from eight states. The majority (2,856,755 IDPs, 69.37%) have been reportedly displaced from Khartoum state; followed by South Darfur (14.79%), North Darfur (7.85%), Central Darfur (3.74%), West Darfur (3.23%), South Kordofan (0.56%), North Kordofan (0.45%), and Aj Jazirah (0.01%). DTM Sudan also estimates that approximately 2.91% of the IDP caseload are non-Sudanese nationals.

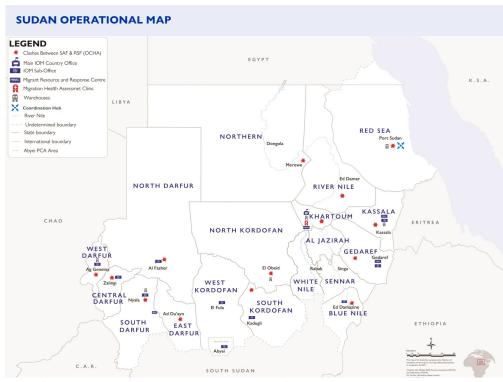
In addition to the internal displacement, the conflict in Sudan has caused the mixed cross-border movements of 1,130,516 individuals into neighbouring countries with Chad (42.4%) receiving the most arrivals followed by Egypt (25.2%), South Sudan (23.2%), Ethiopia (7.1%), Central African Republic (1.6%), and Libya (0.4%). 67% of arrivals tracked in those countries were Sudanese nationals and 33% estimated foreign nationals and returnees.

On 10 September, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, spoke to Hemedti stressing the urgent need to increase access to people in need. On 11 September, High Representative of the European Union for Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, called for an end to attacks that target civilians. Rains and flooding will continue to compound the situation further, approximately 360 houses were impacted by the heavy rains in Gedaref on 2 September. In North Kordofan, over 540 households were impacted as a result of the heavy rains and flooding. IOM and partners continue to respond to the growing needs in Sudan and neighbouring countries, identifying avenues to deliver humanitarian assistance across hard-to-reach areas.



#### **RESPONSE OVERVIEW**

#### **SUDAN**



16.040 individuals reached with NFI kits

23.352 individuals reached with medical and MHPSS assistance

7.802 individuals reached with protection assistance

This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and Boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

As of 12 September, 59 containers containing relief items (including hygiene kits and medical items) for distribution through the pipeline mechanism were cleared by the Sudan customs and delivered to IOM warehouses in Port Sudan. In addition to the 7 Rapid Response Fund sub-grants recently completed in the states of the Red Sea, Gedaref, White Nile, and South Darfur through which 172,465 individuals were reached; 13 other grants are underway in the states of the Red Sea, Kassala, Khartoum, Aj Jazirah, White Nile, South Kordofan, North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur. The activities covered by the sub-grants include water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support, health and protection assistance, non-food items distributions, and cash-based interventions.

Since the beginning of the conflict, IOM has provided medical assistance as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 23,352 individuals through 4 health facilities (Northern and Blue Nile states, and Abyei), mobile outreach to hard-to-reach communities, and its Migrant Resource and Response Centers (MRRCs) located in Gedaref and Kassala. In addition, MRRCs have provided protection assistance to a total of 7,802 individuals through awareness-raising sessions on safe migration, gender-based violence, psychological first aid (PFA), counter-trafficking, art therapy, and psychoeducation.

Since April 15, 50 stranded migrants have received voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) assistance to their country of origin, while 62 migrants received consular (pre-departure) assistance. Furthermore, 27 refugees were resettled to Canada and 3 to the United States in close coordination with UNHCR. A first family reunification of an unaccompanied minor to his family in Belgium also took place on 3 September.

In partnership with Sudanese Organization for Development (SOD), IOM has also provided legal assistance to 55 migrants in vulnerable situations in Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea states. Moreover, 16,040 migrants and IDPs were reached through the distribution of NFI kits in the Blue Nile, Gedaref, North Darfur, North and South Kordofan states; and 31,259 were reached with hygiene kits in the Red Sea, Northern and South Kordofan states. 1,550 households in the Red Sea state also received multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help them meet their basic needs.

### **SOUTH SUDAN**

1,874 840m<sup>3</sup> individuals provided of clean drinking new shelters MHPSS support water produced constructed

As of 10 September, 262,298 individuals have been recorded as arriving in South Sudan from Sudan (18,282 Sudanese and 244,016 non-Sudanese). Wunthow/Juda, near Renk, Upper Nile State, continues to be the point of entry (PoE) for most new arrivals to South Sudan. Returnee arrivals continue to report onward transportation assistance (OTA), food, shelter/NFIs, WASH, and health as their key priority needs.

IOM continues to scale up its health assistance to affected populations. During the reporting period, IOM's MHPSS team supported

1,874 vulnerable individuals, of which 97 were individuals with disabilities at various border crossing points or onward transportation reception points. Additionally, IOM conducted 3,446 medical consultations in Renk and 156 consultations in Wau, as well as provided health services to 387 new arrivals in Abyei.

IOM's WASH teams continue to provide access to safe drinking water for those impacted by the crisis. In Renk, IOM produced 840 m3 of clean drinking water at the water treatment plant, while in Unity state, IOM provided 780 litres of safe and clean drinking water for affected populations at the Panakuach PoE. Additionally, at Panakuach, IOM's shelter and settlement unit, together with the NFI and WASH clusters in Rotriak, verified and registered 307 new returnee households.

As part of its multisectoral response to the needs highlighted by returnee arrivals, IOM's CCCM teams continue to respond to the challenge of an insufficient number of shelters to host new arrivals in locations such as Malakal. As such, CCCM teams completed the construction of 2 communal shelters in Malakal during the reporting period and finalized the construction of 2 such shelters in Rotriak.

During the past week, protection staff identified 1,908 individuals in households with one or more vulnerable household members. IOM continues to respond to the need for immediate action to strengthen GBV responses in-country, particularly in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state. IOM's GBV specialist monitored the CMR capacities of health providers located closest to the main border points and liaised with the authorities to secure two premises to open safe spaces for women and girls. At the country level, IOM supported the Rapid SEA Risk Assessment, led by the PSEA task force, in Bulukat transit centre (TC) as well as the Interagency Rapid Assessment in Renk.



wo returnee women in their new shelter in Tongori site, Ouaddaï province. © IOM Chad 2023

### **CHAD**

5.507 individuals relocated to Tongori

30 emergency latrines constructed

water system installed

The latest update on arrival figures dates to 10 September and records 479,892 individuals (418,126 Sudanese and 61,766 non-Sudanese) as having crossed the border from Sudan into Chad.

During the reporting period, IOM continued to develop and support returnee sites in Ouaddaï and Sila provinces, including providing shelters, coordinating the provision of essential services, and setting up management and governance structures. 773 of the most vulnerable returnee households (5,507 individuals) were relocated to the new site established by IOM in Tongori (Ouaddaï province) in coordination with authorities.

As part of its response in Tongori, the Organization installed shelters, with some being installed by ACTED, as well as constructed 30 emergency latrines and installed a borehole with a water distribution system to supply the site residents with drinking water. Humanitarian partners continue to reinforce service delivery on the site, with UNICEF installing a child-friendly space and UNFPA installing a GBV referral station, while Première Urgence Internationale continues to conduct medical consultations at the site.

IOM continues to identify vulnerable TCNs in displacement sites in the border area and to assist those who wish to return to their home country. IOM has thus far identified 115 TCNs from South Sudan, Niger, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, and Uganda in 29 localities in 3 provinces.

At the interagency level, IOM is continuing to support the distribution of food to vulnerable households with WFP in Sila province. So far, over 40,000 individuals have received food assistance across Ouaddaï and Sila provinces with WFP.

While IOM and partners continue to deliver assistance in-country, additional funding is critically needed to ensure continued delivery of essential services to extremely vulnerable individuals and communities beyond December 2023.

#### **ETHIOPIA**

5,173 individuals reached through awareness raising sessions in Metema

60m<sup>3</sup> of safe and clean water distributed at Kurmuk

276 individuals reached with tailored information on services

The latest update on arrival figures dates to 10 September and records 80,502 individuals (27,989 Sudanese and 52,513 non-Sudanese) as having crossed the border from Sudan into Ethiopia.

During the reporting period, IOM Ethiopia continued to provide health, WASH, protection, and MHPSS assistance as part of its multisectoral response to the Sudan crisis. IOM continues to regularly test water quality to ensure safe drinking water for affected populations. In the reporting period, 102,000 litres of clean water were delivered to the Metema PoE, and 60m3 of safe and treated water was distributed at Kurmuk, reaching 280 individuals.

Additionally, as part of its health response, IOM provided 407 medical consultations for Ethiopian returnees and TCNs and provided PFA to 125 individuals to address immediate psychosocial needs. 72 individuals received sexual and reproductive health services, while all pregnant mothers received counselling on birth preparedness and personal hygiene. Recognizing the health risks at the Metema PoE, IOM conducted awareness-raising sessions on health-related issues, including cholera, in Metema, reaching 5,173 individuals, as well as conducted medical screenings in Metema in collaboration with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), benefiting 1,075 individuals.

IOM's Migration Response Centre (MRC) continues to be operational; in the reporting period, 276 individuals received tailored information on available services, 62 individuals received medication and were supported through translation services, while 561 individuals benefitted from translation support into Arabic, English, Amharic, and Tigrigna. Committed to mainstreaming protection principles throughout its response to the crisis, IOM Ethiopia assisted 26 migrants with counselling and targeted protection assistance and supported 27 returnees with GBV protection assistance.

The risk of a cholera outbreak at the Metema PoE continues to be of high concern. While IOM is continuing to conduct awareness campaigns on cholera prevention, its impacts on movements from the PoE may lead to overcrowding at the PoE, in turn exacerbating health risks. With the response being complicated by the lack of NFIs, food, and other critical items, flexible funding is urgently needed to respond to the needs of affected populations.

## **EGYPT**

30.588 individuals reached with direct assistance

3,184 medical items provided to Aswan Specialized Hospital

To date, IOM has reached approximately 30,588 individuals with direct assistance, VHR assistance, distribution of non-food items, and other assistance. As of 11 September, 29,611 individuals have been pre-registered, and 29,797 individuals have been registered for direct assistance. Out of those, 4,104 individuals have received assistance in the form of cash assistance, food vouchers, housing allowance, and medical assistance. During the reporting period, IOM completed a mission to Aswan in which 3,184 medical items were provided to Aswan Specialized Hospital and assessments were conducted. Moreover, a PSEA training was conducted for 60 members of the Protection Working Group, which included UN agencies, civil society, donors, and community-based organizations.

## **LIBYA**

As of 10 September, DTM Libya observed 3,979 arrivals (3,402 in Al Kufra, 500 in Om El Araneb, and 77 in Algatroun) of Sudanese migrants and TCNs. This includes 3,010 Sudanese migrants, 1,569 of which arrived indirectly from Chad (992 in Al Kufra, 77 in Algatroun, and 500 in Om El Araneb), and 1,441 of which arrived from Sudan directly via Northern State and North Darfur. Additionally, DTM also recorded the arrival of 600 Libyan returnees and 369 TCNs (294 Chadians, 31 Ethiopians, 16 Somalis, 9 Nigerians, 9 Eritreans, 6 Egyptians, 3 Nigerien, and 1 Burkinabe) from Sudan.

Most recently as part of its response to the ongoing crisis in Sudan, IOM Libya provided NFIs, mattresses and blankets to 45 vulnerable households (154 individuals) that had crossed into Benghazi, eastern Libya, from Sudan.

## **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)**

As of 4 September, a total of 18,545 individuals are recorded as having arrived in CAR since the beginning of the crisis in Sudan, with most having arrived in the Am Dafock PoE. This includes 13,844 Sudanese asylum seekers, and 4,701 returnees. Of the 18,545 recorded arrivals in the country, 1,808 were relocated from Am Dafock to Birao by UNHCR and the local government. As such, the government has instructed partners to concentrate on the response and humanitarian efforts in Birao, where IOM continues to strengthen its presence.

As part of the humanitarian efforts to respond to increasing needs in Birao, IOM's protection team is preparing to launch MHPSS and protection activities and has launched the procurement of 500 dignity kits for a distribution in the next few months. IOM's DTM Flow Monitoring teams continue to contribute to the monitoring of displaced movements from Sudan. Most recently, IOM published the updated results of flow monitoring activities in Ngarba PoE to complement and inform evidence-based programming that is tailored to the local context.

