

Alert note

Sudan Conflict, 16/05/2023

Completed by: Odd Evjen, NCA, (on behalf of the other country forums)
 Date completed: 16th May 2023
 Forum: National Forums of (Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia, Egypt) – Sub regional response

Type of emergency: Armed conflict
 Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 15th April 2023

<p>1. The nature of the emergency</p> <p>The 15th of April 2023 was the day a violent power struggle broke out in Khartoum, Sudan's capital city between the two main warring factions; the ruling militia regime (Sudanese Armed Forces-SAF) which is currently acting as the official Army of the country and a rival paramilitary force; the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The violence broke out due to increased tension between the country's most powerful generals, who jointly staged a coup d'état in October 2021. As of 14th May, 2023, an estimated 900 civilians have been killed and a further 4,000+ injured, whereas an estimated 5 million Sudanese are internally displaced and 1 million have fled to neighbouring countries¹.</p>
<p>2. The impact and scale of the emergency</p> <p>(i) Scale; This a large-scale emergency affecting both Sudan and neighbouring countries namely South Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia, and Egypt. Reference is made to the daily UN/OCHA Flash Update for latest description of scale and figures emerging in Sudan and to the UN Operational Data portal for updates on status of refugees from the Sudan situation.</p> <p>(ii) Geographical areas and characteristics.</p> <p>Sudan: There has been massive movement of internal displacement persons and refugees since the beginning of the conflict. The entire country is affected. Infrastructure and telecommunications, banks, supply lines, fuel supplies are seriously disrupted. The key battlegrounds are in the capital Khartoum and surrounding areas as well as the South, Central and Northern Darfur states. Military clashes as well as intercommunal fighting affect South and North Kordofan states, White and Blue Nile states. The Eastern and northern states of Gedaref, Red Sea and Northern are also affected but with relative calm.</p> <p>South Sudan: The points of entry of returnees and refugees are in Upper Nile- (Renk, Fashoda, Manyo, Panyikang), Northern Bahr El Ghazal- (Aweil East & Aweil North), Unity (Pariang & Rubkona), Western Bahr El Ghazal (Raja) and Abyei administrative Area, along the border between Sudan and South Sudan. (UNHCR/IOM-Dashboard-Population Movement from Sudan to South Sudan)</p> <p>Ethiopia: Ethiopian returnees as well as Sudanese refugees enter the border crossing points in the regions of Amhara (Metema), Benishangul Gumuz (Kurmuk) and Gambella (Pagak/Bubieyr), with Metema receiving to date the highest number of refugees. UN/OCHA/Ethiopia flash updates.</p> <p>Chad: The three provinces bordering Sudan, Ouaddai, Wadi-Fira and Sila, are affected, with Ouaddai being the most affected. The characteristics of these areas can be summarised as follows: arid zones which are difficult to access when the rains start (in June), risk of flooding, insecurity, and increased prices of goods due to the official border closure. Reference is made to UNHCR Flash Updates for Chad</p> <p>Egypt: Most refugees are crossing at the Argeen and Qustul (Wadi Halfa in Sudan) border crossings and relocated to Aswan and Karkar. UNHCR Egypt. Most of the displaced Sudanese coming across the Egyptian border are concentrated in Greater Cairo¹, a mega city with a housing shortage and increasing cost of</p>

¹ **The Greater Cairo Region** is a metropolitan area centered around Cairo, Egypt. It comprises the entirety of the Cairo Governorate, the cities of Imbaba and Giza in the Giza Governorate, and the city Shubra El Kheima in Qalyubia Governorate. Its definition can be expanded to include peri-urban areas and a number of new planned towns founded in the desert areas east and west of Cairo. Within Greater Cairo lies the largest metropolitan area in Egypt, the largest urban area in Africa, the Middle East, and the Arab world, and the 6th largest metropolitan area in the world.

living. Access to health care is particularly costly, and Egyptians already rely on out-of-pocket spending to receive healthcare services.

(iii) Numbers and characteristics as of May 16th, 2023

Sudan: As a result of the war 936,000 people have been newly displaced including 736,200 people displaced internally and 200,000 who have crossed into neighbouring countries. Women and children represent 75 per cent of those affected by this conflict that have become more vulnerable. This includes an estimated 450,000 children who have fled their homes².

South Sudan: 59,229 (53% female,47%male) individuals have cross into South Sudan. At least 94% of these are South Sudanese returnees. According to UNHCR estimates, between 125,000 and 180,000 South Sudanese and 45,000 Sudanese are expected to arrive in the next three months. (*UNHCR/IOM-Dashboard/14/05/2023*).

Ethiopia: More than 20,400 people have crossed Ethiopia's Metema border and 5,300 in Almahal, Benishangul-Gumuz Region. Most of these are Ethiopian returnees.

Chad: The total number of refugee arrivals from Sudan has exceeded 50,000 (18,500 male, 31,500 female). UNHCR projects a total of 100,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad by the end of May².

Egypt: 81,172 people have crossed into Egypt, including 76,135 Sudanese and 5,037 third-country nationals. It is estimated that up to 300,000 Sudanese people are expected to cross the Egyptian borders over the next few months².

(iv) How the people have been affected, short- and long-term consequences

Sudan: Many civilian homes and key infrastructure including health, education, energy, water, and sanitation facilities have been destroyed leaving millions suffering and lacking accessibility to services. All supply routes are disrupted. Individual and family livelihoods have been disrupted including agriculture activities, leading to serious survival concerns of those affected. As a result of this, domestic violence and other forms of [Gender Based Violence](#) has increased the vulnerability of women, leaving women and adolescent girls most vulnerable and at risk to the situation. Other protection risks are widespread. This conflict comes at a time when Sudan is already experiencing one of the highest maternal mortality rates, it is reported that an estimated 210,000 pregnant women are likely to be affected by severe disruptions in health services due to the conflict. The conflict will impact reproductive health systems and in the short-term impact women and adolescents' access to reproductive health services.

The ongoing conflict threatens to disrupt the planting season, which is set to begin at the end of May. If the season is missed, the number of people going hungry will increase. [FEWS net](#).

South Sudan: Many people are arriving by boat at Renk along the river Nile, making the emergency response and onward movement logistically challenging. South Sudan already faces a challenging humanitarian situation in which peace and security remain fragile. Intercommunal violence, food insecurity, and the severe impact of climate change presents constant challenges. New returnees and asylum seekers will worsen the humanitarian situation of a country that has been struggling to meet basic needs. (*Food Security & Livelihoods Cluster-3rd May 2023*). Protection concerns remain high for people of all genders and ages and South Sudan remains one of the most food insecure countries in the world.

Ethiopia: Authorities have requested assistance in the priority needs identified including food, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, health and nutrition, shelter, core relief items and the delivery of protection services. The provision of protection services to newly arrived refugees is key, including child protection, family reunification, protection risk mitigation, referral pathways and community engagement. Due to the vulnerable situation of the refugees (45% are women and girls), protection risks, including family separation, gender-based violence, exploitation, and sexual abuse, are high with the urgent need for the establishment of mitigation and response mechanisms. The long-term effects include higher poverty rate due to disruption of livelihoods, poor health especially children, inadequate access to education and disorder related to trauma.

Chad: Urgent actions are needed to provide essential protection and humanitarian assistance, maintain vital assistance to vulnerable communities in eastern Chad, and avoid inter-community tension. The influx of new refugees exacerbates a situation that is already socially and economically untenable, with women, young girls and boys being the most vulnerable and exposed to various kinds of protection risks daily.

² [UN/OCHA Flash Update](#)

relocating the new arrivals to camps away from the border.

Egypt: Access to territory and asylum procedures can be challenging for people forced to flee Sudan, particularly for third-country nationals, those without valid travel documents, and those who are unable to obtain visas. This has resulted in family separation, breakdown of support systems, and a high number of unaccompanied and separated children and female-headed households. Some of the people fleeing Sudan have resorted to try and enter through irregular pathways, which exposes them to risks of exploitation.

3. Local and national capacity

(i) How people are coping

Sudan: Most IDPS opt not to stay at the camps but prefer to stay at other locations where they have settled in, and are self-supporting themselves with the available food, shelter, water, and sanitation facilities within their reach. Local communities are “first responders”. Local communities hosting displaced individuals and groups are accommodating and supportive in providing spaces for passage. Local partners especially humanitarian local organisation/CBOs are on high alert and are carrying out the minimum services and support they can provide to those affected including the internally displaced despite the huge operational challenges like communication, logistics and procurement and movement restrictions due to the active conflict.

South Sudan: As the predominant number of arrivals is South Sudanese returnees, they are returning to areas that are flood prone and highly insecure still riddled with fighting. Many either don’t have the means to get home or don’t want to return to their villages because of security concerns. Their home villages have little access to roads, health care or food. With disrupted trade routes prices are inflating.

Ethiopia: The Increased arrival of Ethiopians (mostly returnees) and other nationalities are affecting the crossing points town’s capacity to provide accommodation and health, education, and other services.

Chad: Many new arrivals live under trees and sleep in the open, exposing them to fierce winds, high temperatures (41 to 46 degrees Celsius) and many other unknown dangers. Drinking water and food is becoming increasingly difficult for many households to afford. There are few sanitation facilities and minimal hygiene practices. Most are women and children who have left all their belongings behind in Sudan. People are using what little they can carry on donkeys and receiving some support from the local people. UN agencies and other NGOs have started to provide a limited response through their contingency stocks or diversion of planned food rations for existing refugees.

Egypt: Egypt has not issued a national emergency response plan in response to the influx of Sudanese refugees. Refugees rely on informal safety nets of family members and acquaintances. Sudanese refugees are living with relatives, some have rented shared spaces in low-income neighbourhoods in Greater Cairo. There are reports of refugees being exploited by brokers charging large amounts to help them find housing.

(ii) National and international humanitarian response and coordination

Sudan: State and national UN coordination efforts are still functional across all the states though limited to virtual meetings and remote support mechanisms. This includes Protection (GBV, General protection, child protection, legal services), WASH and Cash working groups among others. Currently, the GBV Working group have conducted online sessions to all local organisations and UNFPA to equip them on how to provide remote services to the affected population during this period. The INGO forum is seeking to coordinate and address common challenges of access, conducting assessments, cash availability, security, and modalities of humanitarian response.

South Sudan: In response to the Sudan conflict, there is strong coordination and cluster mechanism established in South Sudan by UNHCR, IOM and the government Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) +Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) who are working with local authorities at various entry points to do track data on the refugees and deliver life-saving assistance and protection of returnees, refugees and asylum seekers (third country nationals). ACT South Sudan Forum members have conducted an Interagency Rapid Needs Assessment (IRNA) to map the needs and existing gaps.

Ethiopia: The Amhara Regional Emergency Response Coordination Center (ECC) has been activated with critical clusters having started operations. Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella regions have prepared to establish ECCs, as the National ECC continues its coordination role in all engagements. Humanitarian

partners continue to mobilize resources to assist the returnees and refugees with food, water, accommodation, family reunification and transportation.

Chad: The emergency response is currently happening at the border between Sudan and Chad and is led by UN agencies (UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA), local authorities and INGOs (LWF, CARE, IRC, CRT, LMI, MSF and PU). Some of the services offered include registration, protection, border protection and surveillance and assistance to persons with special needs (including unaccompanied children).

There is food and nutrition activities targeting the most vulnerable children, elderly and pregnant women. There is also water trucking and construction of boreholes and construction of emergency community latrines. Some agencies are providing health services through mobile clinics and vaccinations.

Egypt: The UN cluster working groups have been activated and UNHCR is taking the lead on this. The Coptic Church has strong ties to Sudanese Coptic Church and is working through faith actors.

4. Key needs and gaps

Sudan: Every conflict has a high tendency of increasing protection risks especially GBV for women and girls. The unavailability of and shattered basic services has increased women and girls' vulnerability to GBV and other protection concerns. The conflict has increased the vulnerability of affected persons and exposed many to protection concerns especially GBV. It is also difficult to access safe water and there is also poor access to health services and food.

The population movement has caused significant loss to livelihoods for the affected population and reduced the availability of their food basket also caused by the reduction in the amount of food distributed by aid agencies including World Food Programme (WFP). As a result, the nutrition levels of individuals affected by the conflict are likely to deteriorate. Current WASH services are over- utilised, and with the upcoming rainy season, there is a likely hood of disease outbreak due to limited hygiene and sanitation practices of the affected population (including IDPs, host communities and Refugees). Availability of health and reproductive health services for women and adolescent girls, provision of safe motherhood messages, dignity kits and Antenatal/post-natal messages remains critical There is a very high likelihood that pregnant women and adolescent girls will require support for safe delivery during this crisis period. The effective functioning of the Humanitarian response is currently limited to remote support from the various working groups. Communication remains a challenge. Information regarding situation updates and response mechanisms of the crisis are received through dedicated UN Coordination focal points both at states and national levels and are done remotely and not as it should be due to internet outages.

South Sudan: In South Sudan, many arrivals are very vulnerable, exhausted and in need of immediate assistance. Those seeking assistance include older people, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and female heads of households with young children and large families. According to a prior intersectoral needs assessment, 75 per cent of the returnee households reported food as a priority need, followed by shelter (61 per cent) and health care (53 per cent). Mental health and psychosocial needs amongst displaced communities, including returnees remain elevated and the local authorities and humanitarian community lack resources to adequately address these needs. The ongoing violence in parts of South Sudan has had major effects on the psychological well-being of the South Sudanese people.

Ethiopia: There are needs for aiding temporary accommodation, provision of safe water and food assistance at arrival sites. Many also require Non-Food Items (sleeping mats, solar lamps, hygiene kits, dignity kits, kitchen set). It is also important to support the persons arriving with calling services to contact and trace families. Many require transportation from the border to the transit Center, and onward transportation to Gondar city and Addis Ababa.

Chad: On arrival, people are provided with health care, food, and shelter. Water is provided by truck at the registration point, but as people move into the villages, water, hygiene, and sanitation needs become more prominent. UNHCR is relocating refugees from the border to already overcrowded existing camps, and new sites are being identified, creating multi-sectoral needs, including coordination. Families have been separated and social structures in the region are very weak, raising serious protection issues.

Egypt: Immediate humanitarian response is urgently needed including cash support, food vouchers, health care service support and psycho-social support. Sudanese refugees also need livelihood and resilience support, taking a life cycle approach and addressing most vulnerable groups such as children, women, and people with disabilities.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	
Regional Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	X

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
1. SUDAN				
Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)	Gedaref, Al Jazira.	GBV, WASH, Multi-Purpose Cash, Energy and Environment	Funding and coordination liaison	1.65 million USD.
2. SOUTH SUDAN				
The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	Upper Nile (Renk and Maban)	WASH, Child Protection, Shelter/NFI, Food Security, Livelihoods, Education, and social cohesion	Funding	660,000 USD
Christian Aid (CA)	Unity (Rubkona & Pariang)	Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance	Funding	500,000 USD
Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)	Upper Nile (Malakal, Renk & Melut), Northern Bahr El Ghazal (Aweil North & Aweil East)	WASH, Shelter/NFIs, GBV	Funding	500,000 USD
Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency (PRDA)	Jonglei (Ayod, Nasir, Walgak, Pibor and Pochalla) Upper Nile (Malakal Fashoda and Maban)	Food Security and WASH	Funding	300,000 USD
Mission21	Upper Nile (Renk)	Food Security and Nutrition, Shelter/NFIs	Funding	500,000USD
3. ETHIOPIA				
Ethiopia Evangelical Church of Mekane yesus, Development and Social Services Commission (ECCMY-DASSC)	Metema district, West Gondar Zone, Amhara Region	Multi-purpose Cash, livelihoods, WASH, and Psychosocial support	Funding	500,000 USD
Ethiopia Orthodox Church-Development and	Benishangul Gumuz (Kurmuk) and Gambella	Multi-purpose Cash, livelihoods,	Funding	500,000 USD

Inter-Church Aid Commission (EoC-DICAC)		WASH, and Psychosocial support		
Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	Matema (West Gonadar Zone in Amhara region), Benishangul Gumuz and Gambela	Protection, ESNFIs, WASH and Food Security	Funding	1.5 Million USD
4. CHAD				
LWF (as an implementing partner) DKH (supporting partner)	Provinces of Ouaddai and Sila	Food Security and livelihood, Shelter and NFI, CBI intervention, WASH, and protection	In WASH we would need additional support	2.2 Million USD
5. EGYPT				
Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical and Social Services (BLESS)	Egypt	Relief Resilience Development	Funding, and Coordination with other stakeholders	700,000 USD

5. Potential responses

Sudan; NCA is present in Sudan supporting ongoing emergency response in Gedaref and South and Central Darfur states. NCA works both directly and through local partner and implements GBV, WASH, Health and economic empowerment and emergency response and preparedness plans through ACT/Caritas Appeal funding, Norwegian Government and other institutional fundings including USAID/BHA. Some of the key activities that will be undertaken to support the response in Al Jazirah and Gedaref states include; Cash (multipurpose cash grant) intervention, Prepositioning of emergency supplies including dignity and hygiene kits, implementation of specialised GBV prevention and response services including case management and awareness raising, Establishing, equipping and construction of a community and women and girls' safe spaces, Construction and rehabilitation of WASH facilities, Health and Hygiene promotion messages. NCA will ensure accountability to affected populations through established feedback and complaint reporting mechanisms.

South Sudan: ACT members (LWF, Christian Aid, NCA, PRDA & Mission 21) have long term experience of working with Refugees, Returnees, IDPs and understanding the conflict sensitive context of South Sudan with specialized skills in different sectors of intervention. Currently, the requesting members are present in the states Upper Nile, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Unity, and Western Bahr El Ghazal) in which the refugees/returnees are being received. Members have jointly implemented several ACT appeals and other emergency programmes using multi sectoral approach, with EPRP and contingency plans in place. Forum members continue to mobilize resources bilaterally and through the ACT appeal to contribute to Total ACT Response in the country.

Ethiopia: ACT Ethiopia Forum members (Ethiopia Evangelical Church of Mekane yesus, Development and Social Services Commission (EECMY-DASSC), EoC-DiCAC Ethiopia Orthodox Church- Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EoC-DICAC and LWF) members have proven experience of emergency response in Multi-purpose Cash, livelihoods, WASH, and Psychosocial support. LWF has wide experience in WASH, Emergency Shelter and NFIs (ESNFIs), Food security and Protection in different regions of the country. LWF will support the food security intervention through multipurpose cash.

Chad: ACT Alliance member LWF supported by DKH are already responding to the influx of persons from Sudan. LWF has been present in eastern Chad (including Ouaddai and Sila provinces) since 2007. Its

interventions in the various projects implemented and financed by a number of donors including the UNHCR, created a privileged link with the local refugees' communities. LWF interventions includes both emergency response and resilience building type of projects. LWF is well known in Chad through its specialisation in livelihoods, CASH, WASH and Protection and its engagement in the coordination mechanisms.

LWF intervention will target 5 refugee camps and 5 village sites in Ouaddai and Sila Provinces. It will start in the Ouaddai before expanding to Sila. These sites will be managed from Farchana, where the LWF has an office, and Adré, where it plans to open a suboffice; and later in through the Goz Beida Office. LWF purposes to support 20,000 persons and scale up if need be.

Egypt: The Coptic Church has a strong presence in Sudan. In Cairo, the Coptic church has long opened a school for refugees in an area with high presence of Sudanese refugees. BLESS is coordinating and collaborating with faith leaders, other partners, especially UN agencies in Egypt to assess the situation and establish its response to provide the needed services. BLESS through Faith leaders is supporting Sudanese displaced and refugees to meet their basic needs of food and medicine.
