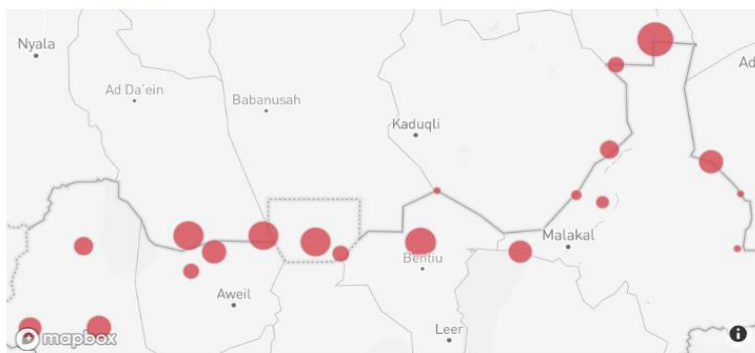


This report is compiled by OCHA South Sudan on behalf of the Inter-Agency actors of the Emergency Response to the Sudan Crisis and the Humanitarian Country Team. It covers the period from 29<sup>th</sup> June – 6<sup>th</sup> July.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 4 July 2023, 149,373 individuals from 33,797 households were recorded to have arrived in South Sudan since the beginning of the crisis.
- Limited resources, the onset of the rainy season, and the uncertain security situation further compound the situation.
- In collaboration with the Government of South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Committee (RRC), partners continue to facilitate onward transportation assistance to vulnerable returnees, refugees, and third-country nationals.

Point of Entry Map



Source: IOM, UNHCR The administrative boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not been determined. Final Status of Abyei

# 149K

Number of people arrived at points of entry as of 4 July 2023 (8 per cent increase from the week prior)

# 87K

People moved from points of entry as of 4 July 2023

# 18K

Refugees and asylum-seekers have sought asylum in South Sudan

# 1 IN 5

households of returnees and refugees arrived at the border with at least one protection vulnerability

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

The ongoing conflict in Sudan continues to force people to escape and flee to South Sudan. Reports from people fleeing detail a harrowing journey as they leave behind their homes, their lives, and their livelihoods in search of safety.

As of 04 July 2023, 149,373 individuals from 33,797 households were recorded to have arrived in South Sudan since the beginning of the crisis. A primary concern is the high number of vulnerable arrivals, including unaccompanied or separated children, the elderly, disabled individuals, pregnant women, and those with urgent medical needs, often having experienced or witnessed significant violence and exploitation during their journey. Many of the returnees hail from urban and peri-urban areas with limited experience living and working in rural farming communities, making it difficult for them to adapt to income opportunities in South Sudan.

The limited material and financial resources, the onset of the rainy season, and the uncertain security situation further compound the situation. Such challenges require a comprehensive plan of action that better accounts for the needs of the arriving population. UNHCR and IOM are working on the revision of the Emergency Response Plan for May – December

2023, with revised planning figures, assumptions, and conflict analysis to ensure the evolving needs of people fleeing the conflict are adequately met and reflected. Partners plan to undertake a multi-sector rapid assessment to identify needs and gaps in assistance at the Paloich Transit Site to inform better planning.

The influx of people fleeing has brought to the forefront the inadequacy of the country's infrastructure and entrenched socio-economic challenges which prevent it from being able to absorb the shock. This puts even more pressure on an already fragile system, with potentially severe consequences for both those on the move and host communities. Public services, such as education, water, health, and sanitation, are already struggling to meet the essential needs of the affected population in areas of return. With limited resources available, it is crucial that the government and humanitarian partners prioritize scaling up their efforts to address the growing needs of the displaced and host population.

The Sudan conflict disrupted the flow of food commodities along the main border crossings, including Renk County of Upper Nile State, the Abyei Administrative Area, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal. Juba and Wau markets in Central Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal States, respectively, had become a distribution hub for food items to markets in the northern parts of the country, contributing to the surge in food prices. Since the beginning of the Sudan crisis, food prices in areas bordering Sudan had increased by 20 – 84 per cent, further complicating the situation for thousands of vulnerable people living in these areas.

Partners are continuing to respond through the construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure and services in both transit centres and areas of return.

## NEEDS, RESPONSE, GAPS and CHALLENGES



### NEEDS

- Across all arrival areas, the basic needs of the population, including food, shelter, WASH, health, and transport assistance, must be met as a matter of urgency.
- Timely, at-scale onward transportation from transit centres remains a critical need as the backlog of people in transit has increased. The backlog is due to compounding challenges such as limited availability of transport, weather, and conflict.
- Returnees face vulnerability with limited access to cash and productive assets, aggravating their food insecurity levels and lowering their resilience.
- Safe sanitation remains a significant need across locations, particularly for women and girls who require appropriate and safe sanitation facilities and means for menstrual hygiene management.
  - Efforts are needed to scale up for harmonized effective health and hygiene messaging, soap distributions, and sanitation campaigns, particularly in collective and transit sites during journeys and in reception centres.
  - Improved hygiene and sanitation will lead to better health outcomes and lower the risk of communicable diseases.
- Supporting children's learning and supplying additional education materials is a critical need that requires urgent attention.
- In Malakal, a multi-partner rapid protection assessment was conducted at the Bulukat Reception site, using focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and observations, with respondents raising protection concerns during their journey such as extortion, rape, and family separations.
- Referral pathways need to be strengthened to ensure continuity of care from transit centres to final destinations.

## RESPONSE

### Protection (including Child Protection and GBV)

- The joint inter-agency protection teams present at main points of entry continue to identify vulnerable individuals for prioritized onward transportation assistance.
- During the past week, teams identified 4,748 vulnerable persons (2,158 male; 2,589 females; and 1 other), with most of them identified at Joda/Wunthow border point in Renk (Upper Nile State) where 4,212 persons (1,944 male; 2,267 females; and 1 other) received wristbands and were provided transportation.
- To maintain family unity, vulnerable individuals and their family members were prioritized for transportation from the Joda border crossing point to Renk Transit Centre
- Protection teams supported vulnerability screening and prioritization at the Bulukat transit site in Malakal, where during this reporting period 232 vulnerable persons (94 male; 138 female) were identified, and in other regions such as 61 in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (23 male, 38 female), while 11 were identified in Western Bahr el Ghazal (3 male; 8 female).
- Since the start of vulnerability screenings on April 29, 2023, inter-agency protection teams have identified 36,261 (24 per cent) individuals in households with one or more vulnerable household members.
- Child Protection partners are responding to returnees and refugees at border locations, transit and reception sites across the Upper Nile, Renk, Paloich, Malakal, Unity, Bentiu, Rotriak, Panakuach/Jamjang, Ruweng AA, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal, Aweil/Wedwil, and in Central Equatoria; Juba, Abyei.
- Case management services, including referrals to specialized services, are ongoing for children across locations, and over 227 children were reached with case management services in transit sites in the reporting week.
- MHPSS teams provided support to 1,641 vulnerable persons (592 women, 388 men, 777 boys, 695 girls) at various border crossing points, onward transportation reception points or at the Renk, Rubkona, Abyei, Wau, Aweil North, and Raja locations. Of the total number of returnees supported, 78 were people with disabilities.
- In Rotriak, the returnee community reported several thefts of the commodities they received since returning. The authorities have suggested establishing a community policing group to support conducting night-time checks of returnee areas and will reach out to the County Commissioner's office for further assistance.
- In Gorom refugee settlement, close to 5,500 people who arrived since the conflict were recorded seeking asylum of which over 2,500 have completed individual biometric registration. The authorities have issued a directive to pause the reception of new arrivals. More individuals with asylum claims continue to arrive at Gorom refugee settlements. UNHCR continues to engage with the authorities to ensure that asylum space is maintained and that this group can access protection and assistance services.
- A total of 663 dignity kits were distributed in Bentiu, Malual North, Mayen Ulum and Malakal to the most vulnerable women and girls of reproductive age.
- 249 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were verified and registered in Renk, Paloich, and Roriak, Ruweng Administrative Area.
- Additional child-friendly areas for recreational activities were established in the Bulukat reception site to support the increased population.
- Over 3,981 people (3,100 women, 881 men) including 842 children (471 girls, 371 boys) were reached through awareness raising on key messages on family separation, child protection, GBV, PSEA, and safeguarding.
- In Bentiu, the operation of OSC (One Stop Centre) was reinforced through the deployment of additional personnel.
- During the reporting period, the OSC continued to provide integrated services to vulnerable women, men, boys, and girls, including those affected by the crises in Sudan. Additionally, partners reviewed and updated GBV case referral pathways to support GBV case referrals.
- In Malakal, a One Stop Centre (OSC) reached 551 with GBV services. Among them, 200 were women, 60 were men, 99 were boys and were 192 girls. Similarly, 304 women and girls received GBV awareness messages in women and girl-friendly spaces.

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- The increasing number of refugees and asylum-seekers from Sudan is a worrying trend, with recent arrivals often comprising single youths, students, or recent graduates fleeing the risk of recruitment.

## Food Security

- During the reporting period, humanitarian partners continued to provide life-saving food assistance to new arrivals through high-energy biscuits, hot meals, food- or cash-based transfers, and specialized nutritious foods. From the start of the response, humanitarian partners have assisted 120,414 people with hot meals, high-energy biscuits, and dry rations in various locations.
- At the Renk transit centre, humanitarian partners transitioned from providing hot meals to cash-based transfers to cover the transit period. To do this, humanitarian partners had to register new arrivals using biometrics. Between 25 June and 4 July, humanitarian partners registered 11,851 individuals and provided them with cash assistance at the transit centre to cover the period before onward departure to final destinations. Humanitarian partners continued to monitor the market situation to review the appropriate transfer value to cover two hot meals per day at the local market price, considering that most new arrivals did not have utensils or facilities to prepare their meals.
- In Malakal, partners plan to transition to cash assistance for returnees to cover the transit period before departure to final destinations of choice (as was the case in Renk), with the transfer value still under review.
- During the reporting period, humanitarian partners continued to scale up nutrition interventions for pregnant and nursing mothers and children aged 6-59 months. Since the start of the response, 32,600 children aged 6-59 months and 13,100 pregnant and nursing mothers have received specialized food to treat and prevent malnutrition in different locations.

## Health & Nutrition

- Mobile and static primary health care services are provided at points of entry, transit, and return in Upper Nile, Unity, Western Bahr al Ghazal, Northern Bahr al Ghazal States, and Abyei Administrative Area.
- In total, 14,121 health consultation services were provided by mobile clinics and outreach services across different locations. Specifically, 9,198 consultations were conducted at the Renk transit centre, while 1,482 consultations were conducted in the Bulukat mobile clinic in Malakal, 4,307 consultations were conducted in the Paloich mobile and outreach clinics, and 134 consultations were conducted at the PHCC in Rotriak, Ruweng
- Patients with critical conditions continued to be referred to the hospital for treatment, 98 people were referred to Renk Hospital, 49 in Malakal 49 to the Teaching Hospital, 42 in Paloich and 6 in Ruweng were referred for further treatment.
- Measles outbreaks continued to be reported and routine immunisation is continuing in all the health facilities and mobile clinics and border points.
  - In Renk, an additional 282 under-five children were vaccinated with Pent 1,2,3 and measles and 390 under children were immunised in Malakal, and in Paloich, 22 children were vaccinated.
  - In addition, following the mass measles and polio vaccination campaign in Renk and Paloich, an additional mop-up campaign was completed. In total, the mop-up reached 49,735 children (94 per cent of target), and 54,776 with polio vaccines (99 per cent of target).
- Training on infection prevention and control (IPC) is ongoing in 11 health facilities in Renk where 40 (36 female) participants are being trained on best IPC practices.
- Women and children crossing the border into South Sudan are increasingly visibly malnourished, and already highly vulnerable.

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- 8,625 children under 5 years were screened for malnutrition across the border entry points, transit sites and reception sites receiving returnees and refugees.
- Of those screened 567 children under 5 years were identified as severely malnourished (SAM) and 1,783 as moderately malnourished (MAM). Whilst an additional 394 pregnant and breastfeeding women were identified as MAM. All children and caretakers identified as malnourished have been referred to and admitted to nutrition facilities to receive treatment and support (OTP and TSFP).
- Nutrition counselling services are ongoing at entry, transit sites and reception areas for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers reaching more than 12,000 mothers and caretakers.
- A tent to support mothers to comfortably breastfeed (breastfeeding corner), equipped with play toys for the babies/children has been installed in Renk transit site.

## Shelter and Non-Food items

- A multi-functional inter-agency team conducted an assessment and provided recommendations to upgrade the existing Transit Centre and establish the Transit Centre extension in Renk, Unity State. This plan is conceived to be implemented in a phased approach with the first phase starting in July to upgrade the existing site to 3,000 capacity and establish the new site for 10,000 individuals according to emergency standards. Should there be a need, the new site could be further expanded in phases two and three to accommodate up to 30,000 people. Partners have been approached to support the inter-agency effort for this project.
- In Unity State, distributed NFIs to 674 verified households (3,435 individuals), including sheets, blankets, mats, kangas, solar lamps, and rubber ropes.

## WASH

- An average of 90,000 and 120,000 litres of water are being produced per day in Upper Nile State. An average of 50,000 litres of water are provided to the Transit Centre in Renk via water trucking, while between 45,000 and 80,000 litres of water are being provided to partners.
- In Northern Bahr-El-Ghazal State WASH NFIs were distributed to 900 households with 2,520 individuals, and 442 women and girls of reproductive age were provided menstrual hygiene management kits.
- In Unity State, partners and the government supported the distribution of WASH NFIs to the returnees, reaching out to a total of 674 households. Drinking water has been provided for returnees and refugees passing through the Panakuach entry point.

## CCCM (Camp Coordination and Camp Management)

- Continuous sensitization of returnees at the border in Joda point of entry (Upper Nile State) on Onward Transportation Assistance registration and available services at the transit centre.
- Information desks are being established at entry points with the purpose of disseminating vital messages regarding Onward Transportation Assistance (OTA) registration, transportation, and the availability of humanitarian services at the transit centre. Additionally, it provides assistance in referring cases and connecting returnees with their families and relatives through free phone calls.
- In Panakuach point of entry (Unity State), partners started the construction of a new 10m x 10m reception centre to replace the old structure. The new structure is expected to be completed in one week and will be able to receive a higher number of new arrivals.

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- The Unity State Government set up a transit centre in Rotriak with 20 communal tents in block 12 to accommodate returnees fleeing the conflict in Sudan. Approximately 7,600 individuals from over 1,000 households were counted as accommodated at the Transit Centre with over 67% identified as people with specific needs. The authorities are demarcating land for returnees whose destination is Rotriak.
- In Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal, support was provided in receiving and verification of returnees at Aweil Airstrip.
- In Wadwil, the relocation of nearly 4,800 refugees and asylum-seekers from the temporary transit site to the newly constructed Transit Centre was completed end-June 2023.

## Education

- Enrolment of children affected by the crisis into schools continued during the reporting period, with an additional 210 children (96 girls) enrolling in Northern Bahr El Ghazal, 952 in Renk, and 257 in Malakal, covering Ruweng Administrative Area and Unity.
- Additionally, 8 blackboards, 3 plastic sheets, and 33 cartoons of scholastic materials were distributed to more than 800 school-going children in Rotriak, as well as Unity Primary Schools and Norkur Primary School in Bentiu for newly enrolled returnee children.
- Distribution of school materials is planned in Malakal, Aweil, and Renk.



## GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- The response remains critically under resourced, and the needs are overwhelming. There are significant outstanding needs. Given how mobile and transitory many of the people are, their vulnerability as they arrive, the expanse of their needs, there are insufficient supplies for critical items including sufficient WASH and shelter supplies.
- The rains create significant challenges. People were impacted by severe flooding in Wanthou Reception area in Upper Nile State, heavy rains in Paloich, and the worsening conditions caused by the rainy season in Wadwil. These challenges are not only impacting the living conditions of vulnerable populations but are also severely limiting their access to essential services like primary healthcare, shelter, and WASH facilities. As the rains intensify through the rainy season, conditions in the transit and collective sites deteriorate with mud, water logging, and physical access challenges.
- At the Renk transit site, there are significant gaps, especially in WASH. The national WASH cluster coordinator is in Renk to support response teams to improve conditions and raise standards.
- Unaccompanied children are supported with a foster system style arrangement. There is a lack of stable foster care arrangements and safe houses in Renk for these children. Without such support, children are at risk of exploitation and abuse, potentially causing long-term emotional and psychological consequences.
- With lack of food, and exposure on the road many have weakened immunity, whilst a large majority of children are arriving having not been immunized for childhood preventable diseases, and are being admitted directly into treatment on arrival, many for very serious cases including measles.
- Undernourished children are more susceptible to deadly diseases like measles, acute watery diarrhoea, and other communicable diseases common in camps and other areas with unsanitary conditions, with rains worsening, existing conditions in many areas are expected to worsen.



## LOGISTICS, COORDINATION, OPERATIONS AND FUNDING

### LOGISTICS

- In collaboration with the Government of South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Committee (RRC), partners continue to facilitate onward transportation assistance to vulnerable returnees, refugees, and third-country nationals arriving from Sudan.
- As of 04 July 2023, 87,206 individuals were moved, including 63,730 individuals assisted by the RRC and humanitarian partners and 23,476 individuals who were self-organized.
- Inter-sectoral teams are coordinating to receive and register new arrivals; provide information on the onward transportation process and other services available at points of entry, transit, and return; and generate manifests.
- Partner and government-organized flights in Upper Nile, Unity, Western Bahr al Ghazal, and Northern Bahr al Ghazal States, and Abyei Administrative Area are ongoing.
- In Unity State, as a response to the influx of returnees, the government has established a transitional centre in Rotriak to accommodate the returnees fleeing the deadly conflict in Sudan.
- The government of Unity State is working on the road from Mayom to Bentiu to ensure the continuity of passage of returnees and supplies during the rainy season.
- Over 300 refugees and asylum-seekers were transported by road from Abyei, Renk and Panakuach to the main refugee-hosting locations including Maban, Jamjamg and Wadwil. New arrivals are supported with hot meals and NFIs in refugee camps and are registered in the ProGres database to be included in regular assistance programmes.

### COORDINATION

Inter-agency coordination structures have been established in all major receiving areas and sectoral meetings take place at national and sub-national levels regularly. In areas of return, humanitarian partners through the cluster approach and in line with the South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan, are providing initial humanitarian assistance to those returning.

**Phase 1:** Deals with people as they arrive across the border, the provision of immediate assistance, support through transit centres if needed, and onward transportation to their locations of choice under IOM and UNHCR leadership.

**Phase 2:** Takes place at the site of the arrival's destination of choice, where if they have needs that fulfil any of the humanitarian vulnerability criteria, then they receive humanitarian assistance and is under the leadership of the HCT, and thus, the cluster coordination mechanism; and

**Phase 3:** Solutions pathways, through a triple nexus approach under the Resident Coordinator leadership.

### RISK MANAGEMENT

The response continues to adapt to adjust to the needs of the population. As Phase 1 of the response requires support for people as they transit, response teams continue to adapt the response to meet people's needs. Teams enable an adapted response to support people through the rainy season, with mitigation measures where possible. The programs aim to be conflict-sensitive in nature. Cash as a modality is offered where feasible and appropriate, which enables families to self-determine what decisions they choose as per beneficiary feedback.

### OPERATIONS SUPPORT

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tracks movements at key borders and transit points and conducts registration and provides other support to onward transportation operations. In addition, DTM is conducting weekly assessments to

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map the presence of returnees in Renk County. These data collection and analysis activities feed into a [public dashboard on the situation in South Sudan](#), which has been jointly developed with IOM/UNHCR and the RCC and is regularly updated with the latest available data.

## FUNDING

UNHCR/IOM Appeal amount: USD 96.1M

The reported amount received: USD 23.4 = 24 per cent (reported via the refugee funding tracker – UNHCR)

The South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) allocation of \$8 million has been approved. Partners are currently developing proposals for approval.