Key figures

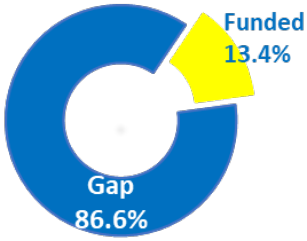
4.2 M Persons of Concern

192,895 refugees and asylum seekers[1]

3.1 M IDPs[2]

940,154 IDP returnees[3]

152,020 Sudanese who have spontaneously returned from Chad between 2018 to date (verification is ongoing)



Darfur Operation Funding

February 2023

1 UNHCR ProGres Report

2&3 IOM-DTM November 2022

Key Highlights

UNHCR handed over a **newly constructed, rehabilitated, and equipped hospital** to local authorities in Tina locality, North Darfur, as well as two schools in Tina and Kournoi localities. The ceremonies were part of a joint UNHCR / North Darfur Government visit to the region to ascertain the status of refugee and IDP returns to the area.

The opening of Tina hospital and handover of 2 schools in Tina and Kournoi localities in North Darfur state.

UNHCR participated in a **workshop on the UN's Joint Rule of Law (RoL) programme**. The workshop brought together key UN agencies contributing to RoL programming in Sudan to strategize around the prioritization of activities and target locations, as well as review outputs and activities to ensure these remain fit-for-purpose, considering the evolving political, security, and rule of law landscape in Sudan.

A **joint Government / UN convoy exploring opportunities for durable solutions was ambushed in Nyala**. Armed men stopped and carjacked a UNHCR vehicle at the rear of the convoy inside an urban area on the edge of the city. UNHCR staff received counseling after the incident. Police and other security forces are working to recover the vehicle.

General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemeti), Deputy Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council**,** accompanied by the Federal Attorney General, Minister of Justice, and a member of the Sovereignty Council, **visited Amorey village in Beleil locality**. Amorey is the distribution point for those affected by the intercommunal clashes in January 2023. According to the Investigation Committee, which bases its findings on 441 accounts from the affected population, 90 suspects were allegedly involved in the violence, 21 of whom have been arrested so far.

Central Darfur Wali's convoy was attacked by unidentified armed men along the Guildo–Gorni Road east of Zalingei. The incident underscores the serious security situation in parts of Jebel Marra, which negatively affects UNHCR's ability to access IDP areas within Jabal Marra. Similarly, on 12 February 2023, local sources reported that unidentified armed men on motorbikes shot at a joint security forces convoy in an area west of Um Shalaya, NW of Zalingei. According to reports, this resulted in the death of two members of the security force and injury of three others.

Refugee Protection

1,300 refugee households who crossed the border into Chad fleeing violence in Adekong, West Darfur, in early 2022 **returned to Adekong,** in late January 2023. This leaves approximately 700 refugee households on the Chad side of the border. Reportedly, those households have expressed willingness to return to West Darfur; however, challenges around lack of access to shelter remain a key barrier. UNHCR participated in an interagency mission to Adekong on 01 February which examined community concerns on limited versus blanket NFI distributions. UNHCR is advocating for a conflict-sensitive approach entailing assistance to both vulnerable returnee households and vulnerable households from among surrounding Nomadic communities.

UNHCR met with hundreds of returnees returned to their localities

A joint UNHCR / North Darfur Government delegation mission to the North Darfur localities of Tina, Kournoi and Um Barou **revealed that thousands of refugees and IDP returnees have come back** to their areas of origin over the last few years. While some returnees move back and forth in pendular movements, particularly during the agricultural season, UNHCR met with hundreds of returnees who are seeking to rebuild their lives in the three localities. In subsequent meetings with North Darfur State Ministries, it was agreed that relevant UN agencies and State Ministries would jointly develop a series of concept notes on potential areas of support to these areas to help make returns sustainable and to encourage future durable solutions.

Under the **PBF-funded Youth Peacebuilding Initiative project**, UNHCR's implementing partner Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH), in collaboration with Altanawa youth-led organization, organized **a workshop on trauma sensitivity** in Tendulti village in El Geneina. The workshop targeted 40 participants, including 21 women and 19 men. In addition, also under the YPI project, an awareness session with refugees and refugee returnees together with host community took place to discuss peaceful coexistence in Adekong. The area has recently experienced a considerable number of refugee returnees. The session was designed to empower youth to participate in civic life in order to enhance peaceful coexistence.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and IDP Returnee Protection

UNHCR Field Offices in East, South, and West Darfur received the **National Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) and the Durable Solutions Unit delegation from Khartoum representing** UNHCR, UNDP, and DRC. These visits were prompted by the adoption of a National Durable Solutions Strategy in January by the Sovereignty Council as part of the IGAD-led Solutions Initiative. The strategy highlighted the need to strengthen the linkages between national and state-level DSWGs and improve coordination among solutions actors. In West Darfur, the visit provided an opportunity to reactivate the group and meet local stakeholders and humanitarian, peacebuilding, and development actors. In East and South Darfur, the delegation met with the private sector and government line ministries, where the first drafts of the East Darfur and South Darfur state-level strategies on durable solutions were presented.

Several reports of fire incidents in various locations were reported, in part due to the **strong winds** experienced during this period (March – May). Fires broke out in the Salahuddin Ayobi IDP gathering site in El Geneina (West Darfur), Drissa donkey water yard , Ali Salam IDP return area (South Darfur), El Neem IDP camp, and Al Muhajeria (East Darfur). Sadly, six children, five in Drissa donkey water yard and one in El Neem IDP camp, lost their lives in the fires, and more than 1,500 shelters were destroyed. The Site Management Working Group has planned to conduct an assessment to determine multi-sectoral needs and enable verification of a pre-existing WFP list from six months ago to facilitate the provision of NFI assistance to those affected.

Assessment was conducted after the fire that had broken in West Darfur.

Poorly planned, densely packed refugee and IDP camps/settlements represent a high risk for fires, with the potential for uncontrolled fire spread and development over sometimes quite large areas. Tents or other shelters are usually built with combustible materials without firebreaks. Moreover, most camps completely lack water or firefighting capabilities.

Special thanks to our donors: Peacebuilding Fund |Central Emergency Response Fund| Canada| Denmark| European Union| France| Germany| Italy| Japan| Netherlands| Qatar| Republic of Korea| Sweden| Switzerland| United States of America