EXTERNAL UPDATE

SUDAN SITUATION
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)
6 – 19 April 2025

Distribution of non-food items to Sudanese refugees in Korsi - Birao (CAR). UNHCR/Ying Hu

Highlights

- Insecurity persists in Vakaga prefecture, near the Sudan border, as non-state armed groups continue to commit human rights violations such as armed robbery, illegal taxation, extortion, and theft along key routes - including Birao–Délémbé–Gordil, Birao–Am -Dafock, and within Birao town itself. As a result, the movement of people and goods has been severely restricted, leading to shortages of essential items and driving up the cost of living.
- Many families live in precarious conditions in the Korsi district of Birao, a refugee reception area. Among them, adolescents are a particularly vulnerable group, exposed to risks such as sexual exploitation, physical and psychological violence as well as economic exploitation. The young people interviewed by UNHCR's partner, Le Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement (CIAUD), highlighted urgent needs including age-appropriate income-generating activities (IGAs), psychosocial coaching, and the creation of safe spaces to promote exchange.
- The water supply in Korsi continues to deteriorate due to the increase in refugee arrivals, while no new water facilities have been built. As a result, the daily water supply dropped from 11.4 litres per person per day (l/p/d) to 9.60 l/p/d last week. This is well below the Sphere standard of 15 litres per person daily in emergencies. However, APADE, a UN Women partner, has resumed constructing a reservoir and installing six solar panels to increase water supply for the Sudanese refugees living in Korsi.
- Access to adequate hygiene and sanitation remains limited. The number of latrines has stalled at 393 (261 emergency and 132 semi-durable), as UNHCR and its partner, Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH), have been unable to build additional facilities since early February due to lack of funding. With the growing refugee population and no new latrines, the latrine-to-person ratio has risen to 1:56, surpassing the Sphere

emergency standard of 1:50. Over 10,000 refugees urgently need 710 emergency latrines. Without immediate action, there is a serious risk of disease outbreak in Korsi.

Population Movement and Registration

The conflict in Sudan continues to drive refugee arrivals into CAR. In the third week of April, the average number of new arrivals in Korsi and Birao (Vakaga) reached 540, a sharp increase compared to previous months. Notably, 211 registered weekly at the end of March, 375 in February, 303 in January and 264 new arrivals per week in December 2024. Outside Korsi, new arrivals are also reported in Baminigui Bangoran (Koundi, Akoursoulback and Zobossinda).

As of 19 April, UNHCR had registered 25,320 people (10,176 households) in Korsi. Of these, 14,080 are women and girls (55.6 per cent) and 11,240 are men and boys (44.4 per cent). There are 14,751 children (58.2 per cent) and 9,722 adults (38.3 per cent), including 847 older people (3.5 per cent). Refugee registration outside Korsi has been on hold for several weeks due to security concerns.

Protection

UNHCR's partner, Le Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement (CIAUD), recorded 24 protection incidents in the Vakaga region between 4 and 19 April, including killings, physical assaults, robberies and thefts, mainly attributed to non-state armed groups.

The Feedback and Information Centres (CIFs) in Korsi received 898 refugee inquiries on available services and feedback on humanitarian assistance. In addition, two door-to-door awareness-raising sessions on collective feedback and complaint mechanisms including the Complaint Box, Green Line and discussion forums, were conducted. These sessions aimed to enhance refugees' understanding of their rights and available channels, reaching a total of 201 people.

In Birao, Vakaga Prefecture, CIAUD and the NGO Humanitarian African Vision (HAV) organized training and capacity-building sessions on protection, child protection and peaceful coexistence for community relays, religious leaders, and peace and protection committees. These capacity-building activities comprised of 37 people (26 men and 11 women).

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

Between April 4 and 19, UNHCR's partner, CIAUD, reported multiple cases of violence against women and girls in Korsi, including physical assault, rape, denial of resources, and psychological abuse. All survivors received psychosocial support at the Korsi safe space. 8 per cent were referred for medical care, and 8 per cent received individual counselling. This support aims to strengthen their resilience and well-being.

CIAUD organized 10 group sessions to raise awareness in Korsi of the services available to respond to violence against women and girls, reaching 56 people. In addition, as part of efforts to prevent such violence, CIAUD conducted eight group sessions in the Korsi safe space on social cohesion, physical aggression and its consequences, with 115 women and girls participating.

As part of efforts to promote equality and women's empowerment, three awareness-raising sessions were conducted in the Korsi neighbourhood of Birao. This initiative targeted displaced and host community

women and girls, promoting their socio-economic empowerment and fundamental rights and encouraging women's participation in decision-making. These sessions reached 135 people, including 80 women and 55 girls.

Child protection

Sudanese refugee children in Vakaga continued to face risks of violence, exploitation and limited access to education, exacerbated by tensions with host communities and strained basic services. Many also lack birth certificates, which hinders their access to civil rights and puts them at risk of statelessness. Data collected by UNHCR's partners indicates that the main barriers include distance to civil registry offices, low parental awareness, local conflicts and administrative costs.

To improve the effectiveness of local child protection services, CIAUD and Humanitarian African Vision (HAV) trained 22 local authorities (18 men and four women), national security forces, and administrative authorities on 11 April. The workshop aimed to assess the level of commitment of local authorities towards child protection and to identify gaps in their understanding and application of the referral system.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

Between 6 and 19 April, a total of 425 families comprising 1,137 refugees received NFIs from UNHCR's partner, CIAUD, in Korsi, Birao.

During the week of 14 to 19, a joint team from UNHCR, CNR, and the NGO NOURRIR registered 96 households in Korsi (Birao) to receive plots of land allocated by local authorities. Thirty-two refugees have already completed the construction of their shelters and moved in. They are now awaiting the delivery of tarpaulins by UNHCR to cover the roofs of their structures to ensure adequate protection from the weather, specifically during the rainy season.

As part of its response to the needs of the affected refugees, UNHCR has distributed NFIs to 219 Sudanese refugees (66 households) in Zobossinda, Bamingui-Bangoran. The refugees were affected by heavy rains as the rainy season started.

Food Security

Over the past two weeks, WFP, in collaboration with UNHCR and CNR, distributed dry food to 790 households comprising 2,147 refugees in Korsi, Birao.

FAO, in partnership with UNHCR, continues market gardening activities with Sudanese refugees in Korsi and members of the host community. As of 19 April, 51 of the planned 95 groups of market gardeners had been set up. The average number of members per group is 25. Awareness raising for the registration of volunteers continues.

Livelihood

From 4 to 19 April, UNHCR's partner, CIAUD, carried out several activities in Birao as part of the UNHCR project, "Improving the Self-Reliance, Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion of Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities", These activities included supporting CNR and refugee leaders to establish lists of groups supported by FAO in partnership with UNHCR, exchanging with interviewers provided by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) to train them to carry out surveys for the socio-economic study to be organized by Coopération d'Appui Technique au Devéloppement Communautaire (CATDEC) and, finally, preparing a memo for the presentation of the workshop on advocacy for arable land in support of the objectives of the livelihoods component of the project, in particular the agricultural and economic integration component.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

UNHCR's partner, NOURRIR, continued to conduct awareness-raising campaigns within the refugee community despite challenges related to limited facilities. They engaged households through focus groups, block-by-block activities and door-to-door outreach, reaching 4,149 families comprising 5,017 people, in Korsi over the past two weeks. These campaigns covered

various topics, including water point management, sanitation maintenance, and household hygiene practices.

Since 30 April, hand-washing buckets with taps have been installed at the registration centre, the health centre, and various blocks in Korsi to improve hygiene conditions.

Health and Nutrition

Between 6 and 19 April, medical teams from the Centre de Support en Santé Internationale (CSSI) and International Medical Corps (IMC), coordinated by the Vakaga health district, carried out 1,226 medical consultations in Korsi. Of these, 1,084 consultations (86 per cent) were for refugees, including 174 new arrivals (16 per cent), and 132 consultations (8 per cent) were for the host population. Additionally, 381 children aged 0-59 months (30 per cent) were treated among the patients.

The most common diseases diagnosed were acute respiratory infections, malaria, and intestinal parasitic diseases. Most patients received care in the Korsi neighbourhood, with 22 outpatients referred to the Birao District Hospital.

From 6 to 19 April, 53 displaced women received antenatal consultations, and five postnatal consultations were also conducted. Meanwhile, 34 women received gynaecological consultations, and five received family planning services. Additionally, 381 children aged 6 to 59 months were screened for malnutrition during medical consultations with 16 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and eight cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Furthermore, nine pregnant women were vaccinated against tetanus, and 12 children were vaccinated with multi-antigen vaccines. Eleven new cases of mental illness were reported.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) – January – December 2025

The Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025, launched on 17 February 2025, is an appeal for **USD 1.8 billion to support 111 partners in providing** essential aid and protection to a total of **5 million people** in seven countries by the end of 2025. This includes 4 million refugees, returnees, and others who have fled the ongoing conflict in Sudan and over 800,000 host community members. Access UNHCR's Refugee Funding Tracker here. In CAR, **USD 76,436,290** is needed to support **80,357 people**, including host community members.

UNHCR Supplementary Appeal – January - December 2025

UNHCR's financial requirement for 2025 for the Sudan situation emergency response – in Sudan and RRP countries – amounts to **USD 1.1 billion**.

Resources

- UNHCR dashboard: Sudan Situation: One year on
- Data story: Sudan: One year of spiralling conflict and displacement
- End of Year Report Sudan Regional RRP 2023
- 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 Global Focus Sudan Operation page
- UNHCR Sudan Emergency website

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