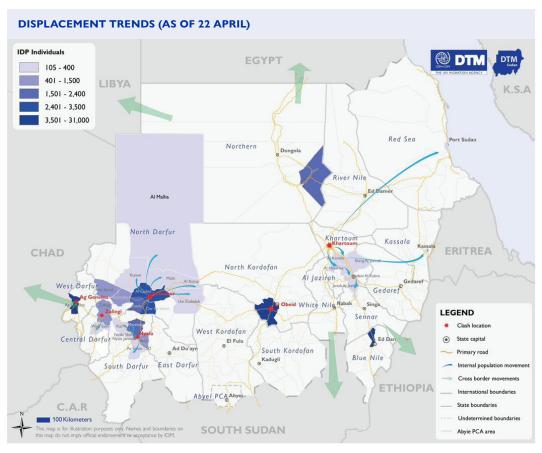


SUDAN: ESCALATING CONFLICT SITUATION UPDATE 25 APRIL 2023

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 urges all parties to cease hostilities and joins the UN Secretary General in appealing for the restoration of calm and dialogue to resolve the crisis and enable humanitarian aid.



75.000+

people newly displaced in Sudan

459+

people killed

4.000 +people injured

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Heavy fighting between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) has continued uninterrupted for 11 consecutive days (since April 15). Multiple agreements for ceasefires have not held, at a rising humanitarian cost. The most recent 72hr cease fire, announced on 24 April, has so far been met with sporadic fighting.

The human toll of the crisis is devastating. As of 24 April, 459 people have been killed and more than 4,000 (WHO) more injured. The majority were civilians. These figures likely underestimate the true scale of suffering, with the health system reported to be at a near standstill amid looting, attacks, and shortage of critical medical supplies. Reports of sexual and gender-based violence are concerningly on the rise. The price of fuel, water, food and other critical commodities are rising steeply as goods become scarce, as has the cost of transportation out of conflict affected areas. Communication facilities are being affected by the lack of fuel and damage to infrastructure.

Respect for international humanitarian law, the safety of aid workers, and the facilitation of aid activities have been severely compromised since the start of the crisis. Humanitarian assets and offices continue to be looted by parties to the conflict, and five aid workers have been killed . IOM mourns the loss of a staff member, who was killed on 21 April after the vehicle he was traveling in with his family south of El Obeid, North Kordofan, was caught in a crossfire between warring parties. IOM is also deeply concerned about a staff who has gone missing in Khartoum. As part of efforts to reduce risks to staff safety, IOM participated in the UN exercise to temporarily relocate personnel and their families from heavily affected areas.

An unprecedented humanitarian crisis is unfolding, as people flee to safer areas in Sudan and to neighboring countries like Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan. According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), at least 75,000 people have been internally displaced in Sudan by the crisis (between 15 to 22 April), mainly in

Khartoum, Northern, Blue Nile, North Kordofan, North Darfur, West Darfur and South Darfur states. The situation is extremely dire in Khartoum and Darfur states, where fighting has been concentrated and thousands are reported to be seeking refuge in neighboring states. For this reason, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is projected to be much higher, as IOM teams gather information on these large-scale movements. In North Darfur, IOM teams have received preliminary reports of up to 17,000 displacements, mainly due to fighting in Al Fasher and Kebkabiya towns. In South Darfur, up to 37,000 people are estimated to have been displaced across Nyala town, with reports of residents evacuating neighborhoods affected by fighting, and markets and other community facilities being burned to the ground.

IOM has received multiple reports of third country nationals (TCNs) stranded in Sudan and surrounding countries. Sweeping population flows out of Sudan have so far not been observed, though numbers are expected to increase as the situation evolves and particularly if fighting slows enough to allow safer movements. Arrivals into countries like South Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia and Libya

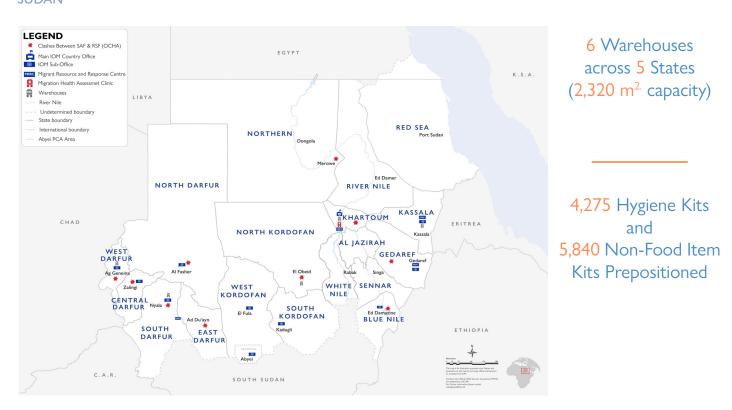
will likely contribute to deepening humanitarian and protection needs. Already, in South Sudan, more than 4,000 arrivals have been recorded through IOM's flow monitoring points (FMPs). In Chad, the number is reported to be at least 10,000 people (with projections putting it as high as 20,000 arrivals). In Ethiopia, at least 2,000 arrivals have been recorded, and in Egypt, the Egyptian Red Crescent recorded 700 arrivals at the Egyptian border on 22 April.

IOM has been working in Sudan since 1993 and stands in solidarity with the people of Sudan through this difficult time. A third of the population (15.8 million people) needed aid before the ongoing escalation; today, millions more are being pushed into the brink of despair due to conflict and lack of basic supplies, increases in food and fuel prices and lack of medical supplies and health facilities.

IOM's Crisis Response Plans for Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia, Central African Republic and South Sudan need urgent funding to respond to the growing needs in Sudan and in neighboring countries, as well as to support to third county nationals who have made it to neighboring countries and require support for onward evacuation.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

SUDAN



IOM's programming throughout Sudan is temporarily on hold due to the widespread insecurity.

CHAD

IOM teams have been deployed to the border with Sudan to support with arrival registration and reception services. So far, approximately 20,000 arrivals have been reported (UNHCR). Resource challenges are a primary concern to ensure appropriate preparedness and response to the population flows. The Government of Chad has set up an emergency hotline for citizens in Sudan to communicate requests for support, and over 103,000 Chadians are estimated to be in Sudan (UNDESA).

At the border, IOM is conducting joint registration with the national refugee committee and UNHCR of Chadian returnees and migrants without international protection concerns, and is supporting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the preparation of arrival assistance in N'Djamena. IOM Chad's assistance will include voluntary return assistance to community or country of origin, including facilitation of travel transportation, specialized transportation for vulnerable cases, medical assistance or referral and psychosocial support.



SOUTH SUDAN

IOM's DTM teams, through 16 flow monitoring points (FMPs), have recorded 4,000 individuals arriving from various neighborhoods in Sudan to South Sudan through Renk, Aweil, and Rotriak FMPs. Contingency planning efforts are underway to support vulnerable returnees and TCNs, and IOM multi-sectoral teams have been deployed to Renk, Abyei, Unity, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal. In Renk (Upper Nile State), IOM will have a fully functional reception centre, in collaboration with the government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RCC). IOM and UNHCR, in coordination with the government, are also deploying buses to border points to support vulnerable caseloads who do not have the means for onward transport. A 3-month country response plan is being developed, in coordination with UNHCR and government stakeholders. A DTM dashboard will soon be available to share up to date information for the response.

ETHIOPIA

As of 24 April 2023, more than 2,000 migrants are reported to have entered Ethiopia (IOM Flow Monitoring and Government of Ethiopia reports), including citizens of more than 29 nationalities, with numbers of arrivals increasing by the day. Based on migrants' interviews and government information, many Sudanese and Ethiopians could not yet reach the Ethiopia-Sudan border due to transportation shortages and security situation; a larger influx of migrants is expected in the coming days. IOM Ethiopia is also responding to several requests for transportation assistance for nationals arriving on the Ethiopian side of the Sudan border. UNHCR is estimating a caseload of 20,000 Tigrayan refugees from Sudan. IOM teams have been deployed to the border point of Metema, where it has a Migrant Response Center, to assess needs and capacity. Three transit centres in Addis Ababa are also open to providing temporary accommodation.

EGYPT

According to the Egyptian Red Crescent, 700 people, the majority Sudanese and third country nationals, arrived between 21-22 April. With the number of arrivals expected to increase through this route, IOM is developing a response plan that targets TCNs and vulnerable groups with emergency relief support. This will be carried out in coordination with UNHCR, the Government of Egypt, the Egyptian Red Crescent, and embassies of TCNs.

LIBYA

IOM has activated it DTM's Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) in Kufra district to monitor arrivals from Sudan, though the border remains closed. No notable arrival trends have been observed thus far. If the conflict persists, and particularly if the situation remains tense in Darfur, increased arrivals from Sudan to Libya are possible. This raises concerns around the risk of exploitation and abuse, as well as expulsion and push-backs along the border with Sudan. Contingency planning is underway, and IOM is preparing to make available prepositioned stocks of essential non-food items available in Kufra.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Though information on movements towards CAR is limited at this time, partner estimates put expected arrivals as high as 10,000 arrivals in the coming weeks. An estimated 500 arrivals were reported on the evening of 24 April, with verification activities ongoing. IOM is working together with UNHCR and partners on contingency planning for the potential influx, including on establishing reception facilities, prepositioning critical supplies, and support for vulnerable caseloads. The response is challenged by security and access concerns.



Photo taken in 2021 of a displacement site in Sudan. The unfolding crisis is deepening humanitarian needs across the country ©IOM 2021

