

# Sudan Regional Crisis

**EMERGENCY SITUATION UPDATE**  
**NOVEMBER 2023**

## OVERVIEW

The security situation in **SUDAN** remains extremely precarious countrywide, with sporadic clashes and particular concerns in the Darfur region. During November the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continued their offensive against strategic military objectives in the Darfur region, gaining control of the Shag Omar oilfield in Abu Karinka and an army base in El Daein, in East Darfur, expanding their influence over the wider Darfur region. Relief International's security advisory team continues to closely monitor evolving security situation, including RI operational areas in Al Jazira, North Darfur, and Blue Nile.

Against this backdrop, the humanitarian situation nationwide continues to deteriorate. An estimated 5.3 million people have been displaced across Sudan's 18 states and over 12,000 people have been killed according to the UN. Critical humanitarian needs are widespread amid mid mass displacement and breakdown in services, and cholera cases are rapidly rising.

In neighbouring **SOUTH SUDAN**, over 417,000 people have crossed from Sudan as of 30 November. South Sudanese returnees account for 83% of arrivals, with Sudanese refugees comprising 16%. The majority (84%) of arrivals continue to cross through the Joda crossing point in Renk, Upper Nile State. As of the end of November, Renk hosted over 53,000 refugees and returnees split between collective centres and host communities. The Renk Transit centre, designed to cater for 3,000 people, is currently hosting to 18,000 individuals in extremely overcrowded conditions, many waiting onward transportation by UNHCR to Maban camps. Onward transportation assistance (OTA) movement for returnees remains slow compared

to the rate of arrivals, causing congestion in border areas. 150,000 people have been supported with onward movement since April, less than half of all arrivals.

In the eastern provinces of **CHAD** (Ouaddaï, Sila and Wadi Fira), over 450,000 Sudanese refugees and 98,000 Chadian returnees have arrived from Sudan. The influx of populations requiring assistance continues to exacerbate the vulnerability of host communities already living in a complex humanitarian situation. Many in the region were already facing food and nutritional insecurity, with limited access to basic social services. Urgent attention is needed to address critical needs of host communities and prevent rising tensions with refugees/returnees.



*RI staff receiving new arrivals at South Sudan Reception Center in November 2023*



## EMERGING NEEDS AND UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

### SUDAN

Throughout November RI teams in both Al Jazira and North Darfur indicate the rising need for healthcare assistance. This occurs within a context of rising suspected cases of acute water diarrhoea/cholera. Suspected cases are reported across nine states (including Al Jazira) following the outbreak in Gedaref state in October 2023. Over 5,400 suspected cases have been reported to date with the number doubling between early November and December.

### SOUTH SUDAN

The situation in Renk is of high concern given increasing returnee and refugee arrivals who require shelter, health, nutrition, WASH, and food assistance. The Renk – Maban road remains inaccessible due to flood damage, restricting transportation of refugees for resettlement. In addition, a number of returnees living at Palouch Transit Centre have returned to Renk in an attempt to access onward transportation assistance. As a result, Renk Transit and collection centres are becoming increasingly congested and financial and host community resources and services, particularly healthcare, are being further stretched. Combined with limited WASH facilities and flooding in the region, a cholera outbreak is soon expected. Facilitating people's

onward transportation is critical to addressing overcrowding and reducing immediate needs and disease risks in Renk and other key locations.

### CHAD

In eastern Chad, refugees and host communities continue to require multi-sectoral assistance including shelter and non-food items, health and nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support, access to clean water, sanitation and waste management. Protection and prevention of gender-based violence remains critical among vulnerable populations.



RI delivering mass sensitization on Cholera/Acute Watery Diarrhoea outbreak in Shentashab Community in November 2023, Blue Nile State.

## RELIEF INTERNATIONAL'S RESPONSE

### SUDAN

RI continues to respond to needs across Al Jazira, North Darfur, and Blue Nile states through health, nutrition, WASH and protection programmes. RI is supporting critical health facilities and mobile clinics with staff, vehicles and supplies, including via Chad to El-Fasher in North Darfur. November saw the first cross-border shipment, a critical supply line given access constraints to North Darfur from Port Sudan and the wider country. Relief International has also flown in supplies with support from ECHO via the ECHO Air Bridge. The supplies, destined for Blue Nile and Al-Jazirah States, are set to aid 12 Health Facilities (HFs) across both states. This assistance will extend

to both static and mobile clinics and will benefit and facilitate the needs of 272,672 people.

RI support during November across Al Jazira, North Darfur and Blue Nile includes:

- 25,769 outpatient consultations at health facilities supported by RI, including for communicable and non-communicable disease, injuries and mental healthcare (18,045 across 25 health facilities in North Darfur, 5,905 in Blue Nile across six health facilities, 1,819 in Al Jazira across four health facilities)
- 2,450 pregnant women attended antenatal care at health facilities supported by RI (2,288 in North Darfur,



## RELIEF INTERNATIONAL'S RESPONSE - CONTD

- 128 in Blue Nile, 34 in Al Jazira)
- 1,143 deliveries attended by skilled birth attendants (1,011 in North Darfur, 110 in Blue Nile, 22 in Al Jazira)
- Malnutrition screening of 3,678 people by community outreach workers with support from RI (2,495 in North Darfur, 1,183 in Blue Nile)
- Provision of direct hygiene promotion for 25,584 people including WASH items, safe water and handwashing facilities (22,642 in North Darfur, 2,170 in Blue Nile, 772 in Al Jazira).

To ensure successful delivery of the humanitarian response, RI continues to coordinate with the State Ministry of Health, Humanitarian Aid Commission, UN agencies including OCHA and cluster coordination teams.

### SOUTH SUDAN

In South Sudan, RI continues to provide critical integrated health, WASH and nutrition services across Renk, Melut and Maban. Key support during November includes:

- 8,160 outpatient consultations (7,931 in Renk, 229 in Melut). Leading causes of morbidity include respiratory tract infection, acute watery diarrhoea, and malaria.
- Routine immunizations for 1,706 children (1,671 in Renk, 35 in Melut), and 2,078 Measles vaccinations were conducted in Renk, Maban and Melut.
- Essential sexual and reproductive health services with 1,025 pregnant women receiving antenatal care services from experienced midwives (1,005 in Renk, in 20 Melut). 126 deliveries were attended by skilled birth attendants (126 Renk).
- At least 2,147 children under five (2,102 in Renk, 45 in Melut, 942 in Maban) and 688 Pregnant and Lactating Women (669 in Renk, 19 in Melut, 195 in Maban) were screened for malnutrition.

On 28 November a suspected cholera case was seen at RI's Renk Transit Center Clinic. WHO was informed and collected the sample for confirmation in the Juba Lab, and the patient referred to an isolation and treatment center at

Renk hospital managed by MSF whilst results are awaited. This is indicative of the need for strong cholera preparedness. RI has engaged with other health actors to develop a cholera preparedness plan and is an elected member of the Cholera Taskforce.

In RI supported camps in Maban, measles cases continue to be reported. A vaccination campaign targeting refugees and host communities began on 29 November targeting both refugees and host communities. RI has received a plot at the New Renk Transit Centre from UNHCR to establish a second clinic. This will enable the extension of critical services to the area once it is reopened to refugees and returnees in January 2024.

### CHAD

RI gained official registration in Chad on 22 November. Teams are finalising multi-sectoral needs assessments in Gozbeida in Sila province and in Adré in Ouddai to design evidence-based interventions that address needs among the Sudanese refugees and host communities in the East of Chad. RI Chad will also continue to be used to facilitate cross border provision of vital supplies into North Darfur.



RI response team screening children in November 2023





RI staff members in Sudan

## DONOR MESSAGING

Relief International would like to thank donors for their constant support, enabling teams to respond quickly where most urgently needed.



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The need for resources to assist rising numbers of IDPs and refugees requires a further boost in financial support, particularly given many agencies have little funding beyond December 2023. RI is actively seeking further funding to widen its operations and maintain access to essential humanitarian and nutrition supplies and to finance programmes across Sudan, South Sudan and Chad.

In South Sudan, additional resources are required to support cholera preparedness and response, the rehabilitation of Renk hospital (the only operational referral facility in the area) and to facilitate urgently needed onward transportation assistance (OTA) from Renk and other locations. Further support is also required to support services and assistance in areas of final destination, in addition to arrival areas and along transport routes.

In Chad, further resources are urgently needed as arrivals continue to be seen, as well as for IDPs and host communities in need in Sudan who live close to the Chadian border.

Ongoing advocacy and support for the movement of critical items including medical supplies and pharmaceuticals from Chad to Sudan is required to enable continuity of humanitarian response in the Darfur region.

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