



WOMEN AND GIRLS' RESILIENCE AT CROSSROADS

SUDAN CONFLICT

REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN ANALYSIS
UN WOMEN REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EAST
AND SOUTHERN AFRICA APRIL 2025



Photo credit: UN Women

KEY FIGURES

Refugees and Asylum seekers across the region¹

Country	Sudanese Refugees and Asylum Seekers	Women and Girls
Chad	769,716	55%
South Sudan	1,088 463 (737,293 returnees)	55%
Egypt	1,500,000	54%
Libya	256,000	36%
Uganda	70,623	51%
Ethiopia	43,072	48%
CAR	35,724	52%
Total	3,763,598	50.14%

¹ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation>

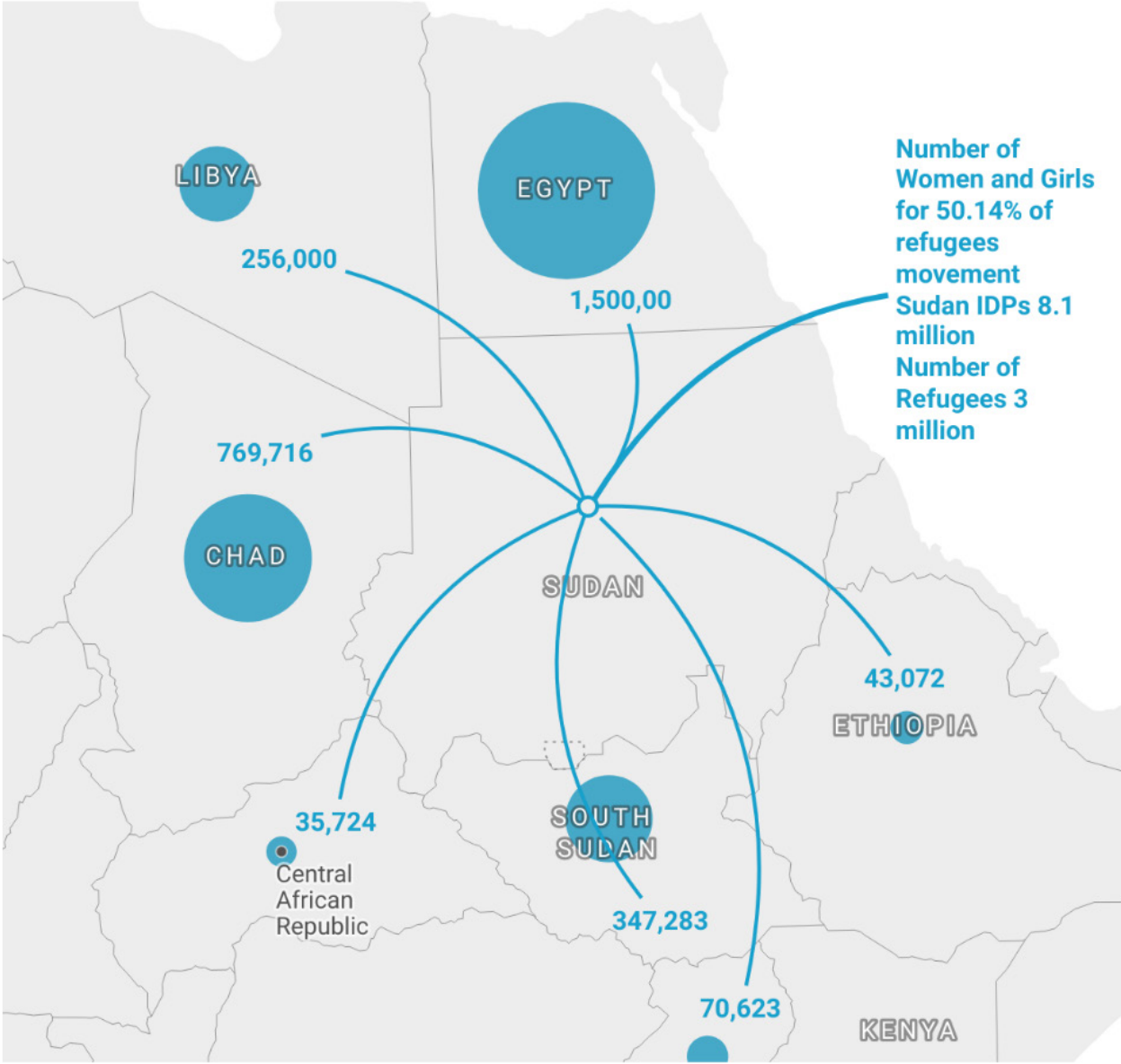
Sudan Refugee Movement

Number of refugees, returnees and asylum seekers

200K

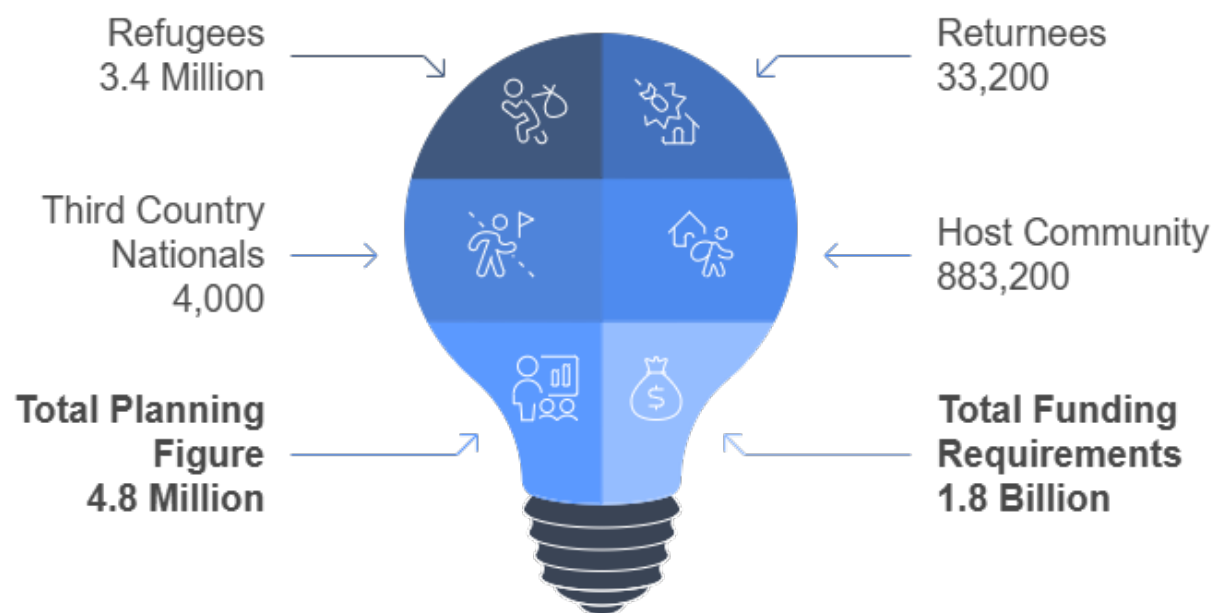
800K

2M

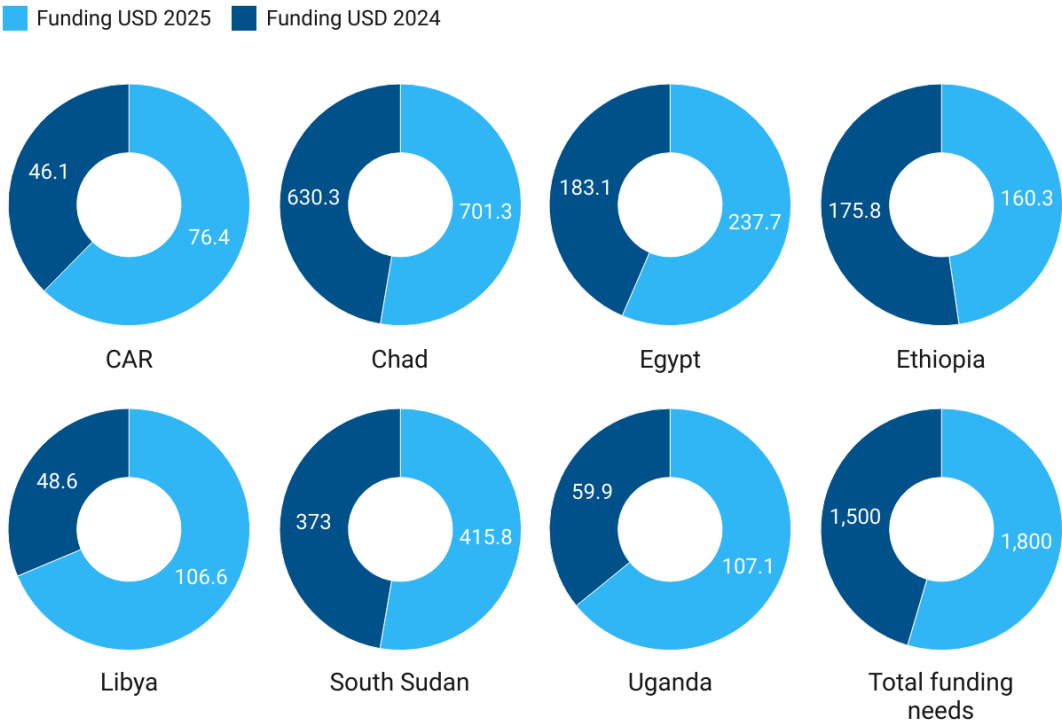


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Regional Key Figures



Funding for Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan



Source: Humanitarian Info • Created with Datawrapper

Background/Context

Two years since the onset of the conflict, Sudan is faced with one of the worst humanitarian crises globally



.....with estimates of **30.4 million** or **over two thirds** of its total population



(**75.8%** women and children) in need of humanitarian assistance.



Of these, **21 million** people require **urgent lifesaving interventions** with funding requirement of USD 4.2 billion in 2025 compared to USD 2.7 billion in 2024.²



Compounded by climatic shocks, the conflict has led to famine like conditions in 10 States pushing **755,000** people into food classification **IPC 5** and another **8.5 million** in **IPC 4** with significant impacts on the poor especially women and child headed households.³

Beyond the borders, the conflict has got serious regional socio-economic implications key among them displacement to neighboring countries.



According to UNHCR, Sudan has some of the fastest growing and one of the highest displaced populations in the world estimated at **12.6 million people** out of which almost **8.5 million are internally displaced**, while more than **3.7 million have fled** to neighboring countries of Chad, South Sudan, Egypt CAR, Ethiopia and as far as Uganda.⁴

This number is expected to continue rising with projections of over **4.8 million by end of 2025** if the conflict continues.



Like other crises, **women and girls** more especially refugees and asylum seekers are facing life threatening protection risks, food insecurity compounded by limited access to life saving critical services and legal impediments that hinder their access to services across the region.

Globally, disaster impacts, conflict included create and worsen inequalities key among them gender inequalities. Before the recent conflict, gender inequality index for Sudan and the surrounding countries was less than optimal with data showing that Chad, South Sudan and CAR have some of the highest inequalities according to Gender Inequality Index (GNI) ranging from 0.67 (Chad), 0.59⁵ (South Sudan) 0.67⁶ (CAR) and 0.55 (Sudan) respectively.

² <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/sudan/sudan-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-2025-executive-summary-issued-december-2024>

³ <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1157066/>

⁴ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation>

⁵ https://prosperitydata360.worldbank.org/en/indicator/QOG+BD+gii_gii

⁶ https://prosperitydata360.worldbank.org/en/indicator/QOG+BD+gii_gii

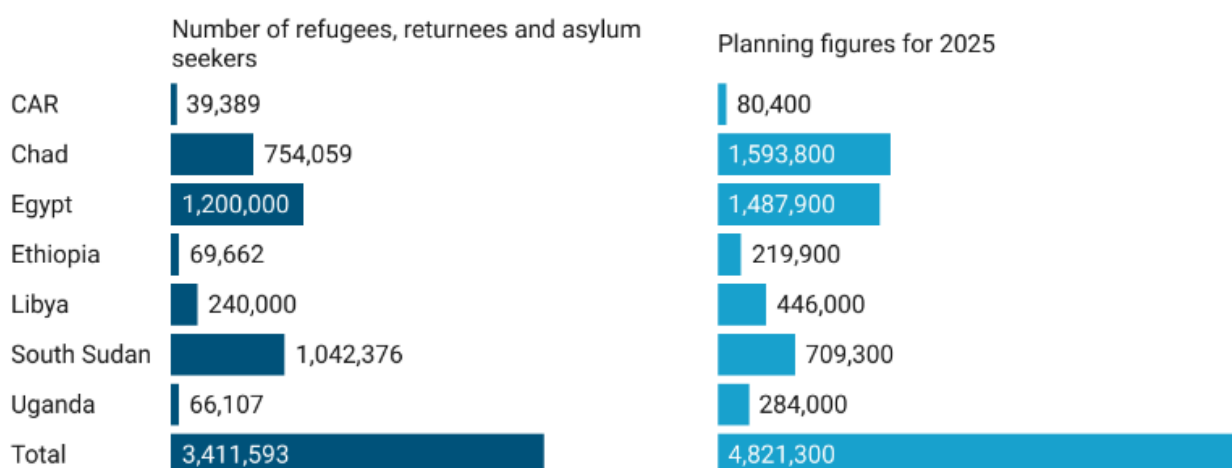
The Current crisis is multiplying and worsening gender indicators some of which are highlighted below:



Approximately **75%** or 2.7 million out of the 3.7 million people that have been forcibly displaced as refugees, returnees and asylum seekers across the region are **women and children**.

Whereas the conflict has displaced millions of women, girls, men and boys inside Sudan and into neighboring countries, data shows key gender disparities with women and children comprising majority at 75%. Almost 90% of 3.7 million displaced are hosted in three countries led by Egypt at 1.5 m, South Sudan 1m and Chad 769,000. If the situation continues, this number is likely to increase to 4.8 million by end of 2025, out of which 3.6 million are likely to be women and children. Women and girls suffer disproportionately from internal displacement too, with UNCHR reporting that over 54% of IDPs in Sudan are women and girls.⁷ In displacement settings whether climate related or conflict, women and girls face multiple challenges including inadequate access to food, gender friendly shelters and access to critical lifesaving services such as protection, health, WASH and education.

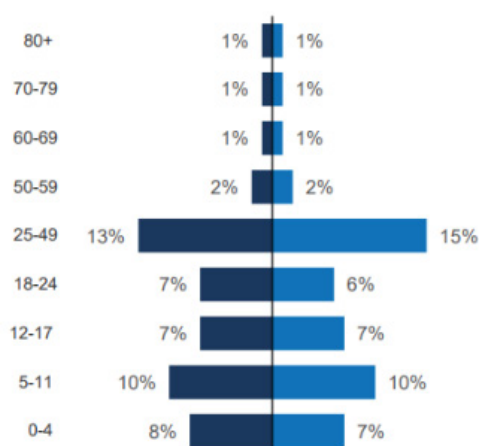
February 2025 - Displacement



Created with Datawrapper

Age and gender breakdown

■ Female ■ Male



16%

Persons with disabilities



50%

Women and girls



50%

Men and boys



49%

Children

⁷ <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/gender-alert-women-and-girls-of-sudan-fortitude-amid-the-flame-of-war-en.pdf>

Elevated risks to Persistent Gender Based Violence and legal impediments for women and girls.

The Sudan conflict represents a severe protection crisis, with alleged widespread human rights violations, including conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) with reports indicating systematic use of sexual violence, including rape, sexual slavery, forced marriage, and exploitation, as tactics of war.⁸ There are reports of alarming rates of intimate partner violence (IPV) in **CAR (79%), Chad (66%), and South Sudan (52%)** of disclosed GBV incidents.⁹ **In Egypt**, refugees women and girls are facing limited access to mental health and psychosocial support services, according to Refugees International.¹⁰ They struggle to secure and renew residence permits, restricting their access to essential services such as shelter, food, healthcare and education including unfordable accommodation due to rental increment. **In South Sudan**, women and girls face challenges accessing justice, legal documentation, secure housing, land, and property rights further compound their vulnerability.¹¹ **In Libya**, refugees including women and girls face arbitrary detention, human rights violations, and heightened risks of gender-based violence, all exacerbated by Libya's internal fragility and the absence of

a functioning asylum system.¹² Persistent exposure to gender based violence affects not only their physical health, but also long term mental health with unconfirmed media reports indicating that some girls in Sudan have committed suicide to avoid rape and the accompanying stigma.¹³

.....
Half (Approx. 37 million) out of the 74 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in the 7 countries impacted by Sudan crisis are likely to be women and girls.

Sudan refugee influx is exerting significant pressure for receiving countries already facing complex humanitarian crisis driven by conflict, climatic and economic shocks. An analysis of 2025 humanitarian and refugee response plans in the 7 countries shows that approximately 74 million people (50% women and girls) need humanitarian assistance with majority in Sudan 30.4m, followed by Ethiopia 21.4 million and South Sudan 9.3 million respectively. Although the number of those that are need is not consistently disaggregated, globally, statistics show that over 50% of those in need of humanitarian assistance are women and girls, while UNHCR current statistics show that 50.4% of those forcibly displaced from Sudan conflict are women and girls. Amid this

Country	Food Insecure in 2025	People in need (PIN)
Sudan	24.6m	30.4m
Ethiopia	15.8m	21.4m
Egypt	15.3m	900,000 (refugees)
South Sudan	6.6m	9.3m
Chad	2.4	7m
CAR	2.4	2.4m
Libya	1.6	1m
Uganda	1.1	1.7m
Total	69.8 million	74.1m

Data sourced from 2025 HNRPs, Sudan and Uganda RRP and WFP source

⁸ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/02/1160161>
⁹ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/109800>
¹⁰ <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/no-model-of-refuge-sudanese-refugees-in-egypt/#:~:text=Sudanese%20women%20and%20girls%2C%20many,or%20amend%20its%20restrictive%20policies.>
¹¹ <https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/South%20Sudan-strategy-2024.pdf>
¹² <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/02/1160281#:~:text=Turning%20to%20other%20challenges%2C%20she%20said%20the,including%20torture%20and%20cruel%20and%20inhumane%20treatment.>
¹³ <https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/187612/sudanese-women-turn-to-mass-suicide>
¹⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/un-women-humanitarian-action-annual-report-2023#>

enormous displacement, food insecurity remains a critical challenge driven by climatic shocks and displacement with data from IGAD and the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plans (HNRPs) showing that almost 70m people in the 7 countries are food insecure. Top on the list are Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt, South Sudan and Chad respectively.¹⁵

Food insecurity is exacerbated by supply chain disruptions and environmental factors such as flooding in South Sudan. Although one of the gender roles for women and girls includes food preparation, women are likely to suffer more from malnutrition and ill health since they often have to eat last. A gender assessment by UN Women in Sudan found out that almost 84% of women are not able to meet minimum acceptable diet as per Sphere Standards.¹⁶



Almost 1.8 million refugee and returnees' women and girls face inadequate access to critical lifesaving services such as health, WASH and Education (**50% of 3.7m displaced**).

Even before the Sudan conflict, a number of the neighboring countries faced serious health challenges including regular outbreaks of measles, cholera, malaria, ebola and most recently mpox in a context of fragile health care system that had barely recovered from COVID 19 pandemic. With the conflict that has seriously damaged Sudan's health system, outbreak of cholera, malaria, measles, and rubella have been reported, posing cross-border health risks given the on-going multiple displacement. **In South Sudan and Uganda**, measles and cholera outbreaks have already been reported among new arrivals in settings where health services are not adequate.¹⁷

In Chad, Libya, and Ethiopia, the limited access to clean water and sanitation further compromises the health and hygiene of women and girls. In Ethiopia's Metema transit center and Kumer settlement, WASH services fall below the minimum standards, with one latrine per 100 people and insufficient water supply.¹⁸ These poor conditions increase the risk of waterborne diseases and protection risks, particularly for women and girls. Inadequate access to clean water also increases the burden of care for women and girls, whose gender roles includes fetching and providing water in their families.



Furthermore, the conflict has severely **disrupted education** through closures and displacement, affecting **nearly 24 million children**,¹⁹ of which **19 million are in Sudan**.²⁰

Refugee children in host countries face challenges such as inadequate school infrastructure, language barriers, and administrative restrictions.

.....
According to UNESCO, refugee children are five times more likely to be out of school than non-refugee children.
.....

Only 50 per cent have access to primary education, compared with a global level of more than 90 per cent.²¹ In such settings, girls face heightened risks of gender-based violence, child marriage and exploitation in addition to barriers to education, with fewer than half enrolled in formal programmes.²²

¹⁵ <https://www.icpac.net/fsnwg/fsnwg-food-security-and-nutrition-update-january-2025/>

¹⁶ <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/gender-alert-women-and-girls-of-sudan-fortitude-amid-the-flame-of-war-en.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/stories/measles-cases-maban-county-linked-zero-dose-immunisation>

¹⁸ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/104877>

¹⁹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/03/sudan-conflict-24-million-children-exposed-year-brutality-and-rights>

²⁰ <https://www.learningpassport.org/stories/sudans-19-million-learners-are-facing-worlds-worst-education-crisis>

²¹ https://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/missing-out-refugee-education-in-crisis_unhcr_2016-en.pdf

²² <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/news-stories/press-releases/empowering-sudanese-refugee-girls-the-change-makers-we-the-world-need>



In 2025, Approximately **USD 9.7 billion** is **needed** to address the increasing humanitarian needs in the 7 countries amidst global funding uncertainties.

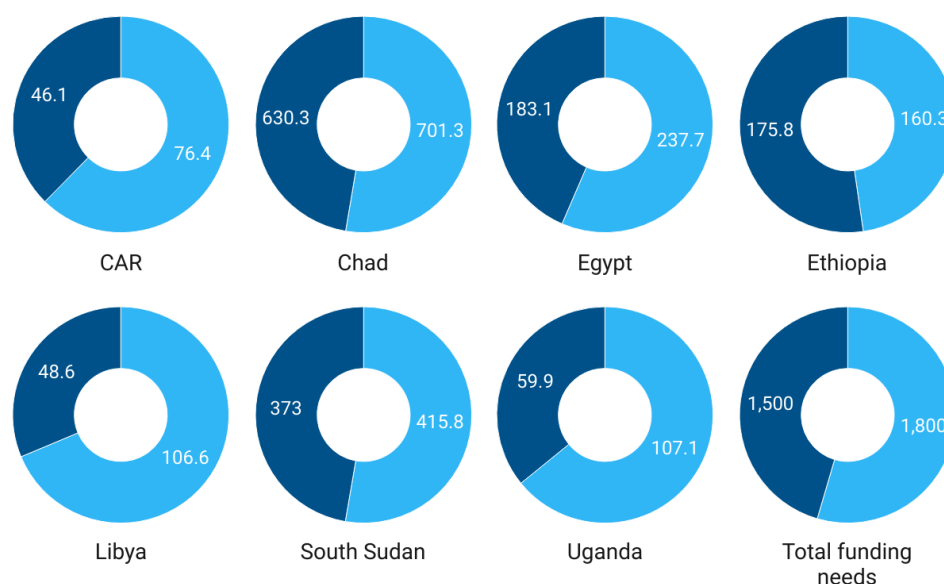
Funding remains one of the biggest challenges in meeting humanitarian and refugee needs globally and across the 7 countries. According to UN OCHA's Humanitarian Global Overview and financial tracking system, in 2024, over USD 49.4 billion was needed globally out of which USD 24 billion (48.5%) was funded.²³ In the seven countries under this analysis, approximately USD 9.7 billion is needed to address the increasing humanitarian needs estimated at 74 million people during 2025. Top on the list is Sudan USD 4.2 billion, followed by Ethiopia at USD 2 billion and South Sudan at USD 1.7 billion respectively. An analysis of funding received in 2024 varies from country to country with South Sudan receiving the highest funding at 68.4 % of its HRP requirement of USD 1.7 billion, followed by Sudan at 67.5% of USD 2.6 billion, while Ethiopia was funded at 29.2% of USD 3.2 billion that was required.

In 2024, both the Sudan and South Sudan regional refugee response plans were underfunded. For Sudan only 28.6% out of USD 506m was received, South Sudan RRP needed USD 882m, was funded at 24.9%, while Uganda RRP that needed 466 million, was funded at 46% as per UNCHR data.²⁴ In 2025, UNHCR funding requirements are at USD 1.8 billion to address the needs 4.8million refugees across the region. This is in an increase from 1.5 billion funding requirements of 2024.

Funding limitations means that humanitarian stakeholders are unable to meet the needs of those in crisis including women and girls. For example, in Ethiopia, refugees receive 60% of a full food ration, in Chad 57%, in South Sudan 50% and in Uganda, depending on their level of vulnerability, 30% or 60%.²⁵ The year 2025 is expected to worsen exacerbated by US aid freeze which accounts for almost 40% of the global humanitarian funding.²⁶ Often, in resource constrained environments, gender and interventions targeting the protection of women and girls tends to be deprioritized since they are often perceived as not lifesaving.

Funding for Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan

■ Funding USD 2025 ■ Funding USD 2024



Source: Humanitarian Info • Created with Datawrapper

²³ <https://fts.unocha.org/plans/overview/2024>

²⁴ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/uga>

²⁵ <https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/situations/sudan-situation>

²⁶ <https://odi.org/en/insights/why-the-crisis-in-global-aid-is-bigger-than-trump/>

Policy Recommendations

Strengthen the generation and use of sex and age disaggregated data in RRP and HNRPs:



The spillover effects of the Sudan conflict have precipitated a regional humanitarian crisis, significantly impacting South Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), Ethiopia, Egypt, and Libya. To effectively address these multifaceted challenges, gender inclusive approaches are needed in line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) gender policy and accountability framework. Key among these is the need for systematic gender analysis and the disaggregation of data that will show the unique impacts on women and girls to inform and support effective refugee and humanitarian interventions. A review of the existing HNRPs and RRP shows some progress on disaggregation of data and gender analysis that needs to be strengthened. Across the region UN Women has taken lead in providing gender data to strengthen gender integration efforts. For example, in Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda at regional level, UN Women has been regularly collecting data through gender assessments, gender alerts and gender snapshot to highlight the impacts of women and girls, to inform humanitarian interventions and strengthen advocacy.

Strengthen GBV protection measures including with WLOs and WROs within Sudan and across the region:



Violence including gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse remains persistent within Sudan, enroute, in transit/border points, in camps and surrounding areas despite the on-going efforts. This calls for the need to review and strengthen measures and interventions aimed at addressing violence against women and girls by all stakeholders, through protection measures starting from communities to sub-national and national levels. Reporting, referral and accountability measures needs to be strengthened so that perpetrators are brought to book. In the current resource constrained environment, the role of women and local communities in developing and supporting protection measures needs to be strengthened including identification of cases, referral and locally based psychosocial support. Continued capacities development of all stakeholders more especially women, youth and their organizations, community leaders, members of IDP and refugee coordination structures on Gender in Humanitarian Action (GIHA), GBV in emergencies (GBViE) and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) is needed given the high staff turnover in humanitarian settings.

Include gender and interventions targeting the protection and safety of women as part of lifesaving humanitarian response:



Across the region, inadequate access to critical services including sexual and reproductive health services, clean water, and gender friendly shelter is highlighted. This is compounded by under-funding for HNRPs and RRP across the region, a situation likely to worsen given the global funding landscape. Often, gender and interventions that focus on the protection of women and girls are the first to be deprioritized in resource scarce contexts. As humanitarian stakeholders grapple with alternative ways of mobilizing funding, there is urgent need to ensure that gender and protection are given priority like any other lifesaving interventions. Whereas food, water and nutrition are critical for their survival, women and girls who have been exposed to high levels of violence including GBV require urgent intervention for their mental and physical wellbeing.

Support refugee women and girls to access relevant legal documents and equip them with livelihoods and resilience building skills:



Refugees, asylum seekers most especially women face challenges in accessing legal documentation that will enable them to access some critical services including, food assistance, education and health in countries such as Egypt, Uganda and Libya. Due to this, they miss out on key opportunities to support themselves and rebuild their livelihoods. This calls for support from relevant authorities and humanitarian stakeholders to enable them to access these critical documents.

If possible, such support should be included as part of humanitarian interventions. Additionally, refugee women and girls should be equipped with skills to earn a living and re-establish their livelihood beyond the assistance being provided. This is especially critical given the challenging funding landscape. UN Women's model of women empowerment centers that provides comprehensive protection services, leadership training, empowerment through livelihood skills and literacy learning can be one of the solutions in such context.

Allocate more resources and strengthen capacities of women and youth led organizations:

The Sudan crisis has shown the significant role that women and their organization play when the humanitarian systems face operational and access challenges. Across the region, there are several examples where women have come together to seek for solutions for their challenges. For example, in Chad women have formed support networks, with the assistance of organizations like Caritas, to negotiate land use agreements and secure resources for sustainable livelihoods.²⁷ Many are engaging in small-scale income-generating activities such as food preparation and laundry services to achieve self-reliance and provide for their families. Through this initiative, women are also providing vital psychosocial support sessions to help refugees cope with trauma and stress, creating safe spaces for healing and mutual support.



Within Sudan, women and youths are demonstrating remarkable leadership and resilience in the face of ongoing conflict through various grassroots initiatives. Networks like the Peace for Sudan Platform, encompassing over 49 women-led peace and humanitarian organizations, are actively advocating for an end to the violence, documenting human rights violations, and delivering crucial support to affected families across different regions. Complementing these efforts, organizations such as Nada El Azhar are providing essential direct services to survivors of gender-based violence, alongside vital mental health support and life-saving provisions tailored to the specific needs of women and girls impacted by the crisis.²⁸ With financial and capacity strengthening support such initiatives can be expanded to reduce the challenges of women girls.

Through its Leadership, Access, Empowerment and Protection of women and girls in crisis gender accelerator (LEAP), UN Women works with WLOs/WROs to strengthen their leadership skills, livelihoods and protection to ensure that they are not only benefiting from humanitarian interventions, but they are part of the decision-making structures as well. With funding, this model can be scaled up to address the some of the needs for refugee women and girls. Jointly, UN Women and UNHCR recently launched a regional forum for Sudanese WLOs and WROs forcibly displaced to strengthen their capacity, advocacy and amplify their voices across the region.

Promote access to education for refugee children more especially girls.



With statistics from UNESCO indicating that about 50% of refugee children access some education, means that almost 12 out of the 24 million school going children affected might be missing opportunities for formal schooling. This is critical for both girls and boys who are likely to be exposed to all manner of exploitation, trafficking early marriages, recruitment to militia groups, anti-social behaviors among others. It is important that education is treated as one of the urgent and lifesaving intervention so that these millions of children are not robbed of their future.

Education helps to shape children's mind and hearts, changing social norms and attitude. Gender responsive framework must ensure girls are empowered to think independently (ECW Director, Yasmine Sherif).²⁹

²⁷ <https://www.caritas.org/2024/08/cultivating-resilience-how-women-are-transforming-refugee-camps-in-chad/>

²⁸ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2023/07/women-are-leading-the-humanitarian-response-in-sudan>

²⁹ <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/>

Brief Overview of Countries impacted by Sudan Crisis

South Sudan

South Sudan remains one of Africa's longest and most complex humanitarian crises, marked by significant displacement, severe food insecurity, climatic shocks and widespread vulnerability.



Out of its **population of 11.4 million** people **50.8 per cent women and girls**,³⁰ approximately **4.3 million** have been forcibly **displaced**, 2m internally and 2.3m as refugees spread across the region with majority being in Uganda.³¹



The on-going conflict in Sudan has **displaced** over **901,000 people** by December 2024, with an additional **337,000** people expected to arrive in **2025**.³² Protection risks for women and girls remain severe, particularly for those fleeing Sudan, many of whom arrive in poor physical and psychological condition after experiencing GBV and abuse during their journey.³³ They also face barriers to justice, legal documentation, secure housing and land rights.

In 2025, humanitarian stakeholders estimate that overall, 9.3 million people out of its total population of 11.4 million need humanitarian assistance. Out of 9.3 million in need, stakeholders are targeting 5.4m, with funding needs of USD 1.7 billion.³⁴ The continued influx of refugees is expected to exert more pressure in a fragile and already resource constrained environment.

Egypt

Egypt has a long history of hosting refugees and asylum-seekers, with UNHCR reporting it as the second-highest recipient of new asylum applications globally in the first half of 2024.



By end of 2024, **926,412 new arrivals** had entered Egypt since the Sudan conflict began,



with **refugees** from Sudan constituting **70.8% (656,189)** of this population, **53%** of whom are **women and girls**.³⁵

Most refugees and asylum-seekers reside in urban centers but face growing vulnerabilities with limited livelihood opportunities, rising inflation, language barriers, and inadequate access to formal education. Funding shortages, including for the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), further exacerbate these challenges.

Refugees more especially women and girls continue to face significant risks of gender-based violence (GBV) in Egypt, with limited access to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, leaving their trauma largely unaddressed, according to Refugees International. They struggle to secure and renew residence permits, restricting access to essential services such as shelter, food, healthcare, and education, as reported by Assessment Capacity Project (ACAPS).³⁶

The growing influx of Sudanese refugees has driven up housing demand, leading to unaffordable rent prices, while food insecurity and soaring inflation further exacerbate their struggles to meet basic needs.

³⁰ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.ZS?locations=SS>

³¹ <https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/situations/south-sudan-situation#:~:text=View%20All-,2025%20situation%20overview,by%20conflict%20or%20natural%20disasters>

³² <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-2025-december-2024>

³³ <https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/South%20Sudan-strategy-2024.pdf>

³⁴ HNRP 2025

³⁵ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/egy>

³⁶ <https://www.acaps.org/en/countries/egypt>

Chad



Chad is one of the poorest countries with **44.8%** of its population living **below the poverty line** in 2022.³⁷



Its proximity to Sudan's Darfur region has exposed it to high levels of displacement of refugees and returnees with current estimates of nearly **754,059 refugees from Sudan** making it one of the five countries with the highest number of refugees in the region.³⁸



In addition to displacement, the country is faced with climate induced shocks with significant vulnerabilities to millions of people. According to the 2025 HNRP, approximately **7 million** people out of a population of 19.3m (more than a third of the population) **need humanitarian assistance**. Stakeholders are targeting 5.5m for interventions with funding requirement of USD 1.4 billion.³⁹

Refugee women and girls in Chad face unique challenges with reports showing that nine out of ten people forced into displacement are women and children and many have endured terrible acts of violence, including torture, rape and sexual slavery. In some provinces in eastern Chad, more than 8 out of 10 children – refugees, returnees and children from host communities combined - did not attend school in 2024.⁴⁰ This is likely to expose girls to early marriages, sexual exploitation, child labor and trafficking. Inadequate access to critical services including health, education, MPSS remains a key challenge as well.

Libya



According to UNHCR data, there about **240,000 refugees** in Libya, majority of them **men and boys** estimated **64%**.

The high number of men could be related to job opportunities for Sudanese refugees that exist in some areas under specific conditions and are encouraged by authorities. However, vulnerable groups, such as female heads of households and people living with disabilities, face significant barriers to self-reliance and accessing the job market. While Libya is a signatory to the AU Refugee Convention, it lacks a formal asylum system, and regularization of stay beyond the initial six-month validity of refugee registration is linked to employment.

Libya's no-camp policy forces refugees to rent private accommodations, driving up housing prices and impacting both refugees and host communities. The ongoing influx of Sudanese refugees has further intensified these pressures.⁴¹ There have been reports of arbitrary detention, human rights abuse and gender-based violence, torture and human trafficking highlighting some of the dangers faced by refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.⁴²

Ethiopia

Described as one of the most drought-prone countries, Ethiopia is grappling with multiple and overlapping humanitarian crises, including shifting climatic conditions, economic shocks, conflict and displacement.

The country hosts an estimated **3.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs)**⁴³ and over 1 million refugees and asylum seekers with 52% being women.⁴⁴ primarily from South Sudan, Somalia, and Eritrea, further straining resources and worsening living conditions.

³⁷ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/chad/overview>

³⁸ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation>

³⁹ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/chad/chad-overview-2025-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-abridged-version>

⁴⁰ <https://www.nrc.no/news/2025/january/war-in-sudan-nearly-one-million-people-forcibly-displaced-to-chad>

⁴¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/chad/sudan-emergency-regional-refugee-response-plan-january-december-2024>

⁴² <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/02/1160281#:~:text=Turning%20to%20other%20challenges%2C%20she%20said%20the,including%20torture%20and%20cruel%20and%20inhumane%20treatment.>

⁴³ <https://crisisresponse.iom.int/response/ethiopia-crisis-response-plan-2025>

⁴⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-28-february-2025>



The 2025 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requires **USD 2 billion** to assist **21.4 million people**, including **3.3 million IDPs** and millions of people facing acute food insecurity since 2024. According to OCHA financial tracking system, the 2024 HRP was grossly underfunded at 29.2% of USD 3.2 billion that was required, meaning that majority of the needs were not met.



Since the outbreak of the Sudan conflict, about 69,000 (**48% women and girls**) have **fled to Ethiopia**. Some of the challenges facing them include extortion, assault, detention, and protection risks such as gender-based violence and kidnapping.⁴⁵



In addition to recent displacement, Ethiopia already was hosting over 1 million refugees **40% from South Sudan**.⁴⁶

Risks of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) are heightened among newly arrived refugees due to disrupted livelihoods, family separation, and weakened community protection mechanisms. Food assistance remains critical, but many refugees face inadequate shelter, clean water, and sanitation. Humanitarian efforts to improve conditions are hindered by security issues, resource constraints and logistical challenges.

The Central African Republic (CAR)



The Central African Republic (CAR), one of the world's poorest countries with a **68% poverty rate**, faces severe development challenges, including conflict, displacement and resource scarcity.



CAR's population struggles with extreme poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition, and low literacy, with 2.4 million out of 5.4 million people (**44% of the population**) requiring **humanitarian assistance**.⁴⁷



Displacement is a critical issue, with **455,000 IDPs** as of **March 2025**.

On top of its own internal challenges and fragility, CAR has received about **39,000 refugees and returnees (52% women and girls)** due to Sudan conflict. Most of them have settled in the impoverished and remote Vakaga prefecture and hard to reach areas where harsh climate conditions exacerbate their vulnerabilities.



The ongoing crisis in CAR, compounded by refugee and returnee influx has worsened the vulnerability of women, girls, and children, with over **11,000 cases** of gender-based violence (GBV) reported in the first half of 2024 alone.⁴⁸

Women and girls face heightened risks of sexual violence and exploitation, exacerbated by limited access to healthcare, safe shelter, water, and firewood, forcing them to travel long distances and increasing their exposure to harm. Early and forced marriages further endanger displaced girls, while women with disabilities and older women are marginalized due to a lack of essential services.

School abandonment and the erosion of children's rights remain significant concerns with data showing that only **31% of girls aged 14-24 are in school compared to 50% of boys**.⁴⁹

⁴⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-emergency-regional-refugee-response-plan-january-december-2025>

⁴⁶ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/eth>

⁴⁷ [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/emergencies/phsa--sudan-complex-emergency-200824.pdf?sfvrsn=6eca3122_1&download=true#:~:text=According%20to%20the%202024%20Humanitarian,nations%20\(OCHA%2C%202024\).](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/emergencies/phsa--sudan-complex-emergency-200824.pdf?sfvrsn=6eca3122_1&download=true#:~:text=According%20to%20the%202024%20Humanitarian,nations%20(OCHA%2C%202024).)

⁴⁸ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/central-african-republic/central-african-republic-situation-report-5-dec-2024>

⁴⁹ <https://borgenproject.org/improving-girls-education-in-the-central-african-republic/>



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