



Policy Conference

600 Days of War in Sudan: Taking stock of the regional mixed movement trends, blindspots and future scenarios

December 3-4, 2024

Trademark Hotel, Nairobi

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Overview and Objectives

Sudan is rapidly approaching the 600-day mark since the outbreak of war on April 15, 2023, with no end to the fighting in sight. More than 11 million people have been forcibly displaced including over 8.1 million internally and 2.9 million to neighboring countries as of October 2024. Border areas in Chad, the Central African Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, and South Sudan are unable to meet the full scale of humanitarian needs, and an increasing number of displaced Sudanese and third-country nationals are planning onward movements to locations farther afield that offer better opportunities to provide for their livelihoods. Against this backdrop, **it is crucial that displacement and migration stakeholders and experts convene to reflect on the full regional scale of this displacement crisis and discuss joined-up policy and programming priorities.**

The Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) proposes to convene a two-day, high-level conference in Nairobi to:

- Bring together the state-of-the-art empirical data and research on the mixed movement consequences of the Sudan war;
- Examine the barriers to (international) protection for Sudanese and third-country nationals fleeing Sudan, and national and regional policy responses;
- Analyze cross-cutting themes related to the gendered dimensions of this conflict and the impacts of food insecurity and looming starvation as a stress multiplier;
- Identify blind spots for research, policy and programming and explore future scenarios for onward movement and their implications for humanitarian programming and policy.

Backdrop

Since 15 April 2023, war in Sudan has ravaged the country, erasing the lives of entire communities, homes and livelihoods. Millions of people have become displaced, and many remain on the move in search of safety and protection. While initially internal displacement seemed a more viable alternative for many, with longer distance cross-border movements undesirable or unattainable for those intending to return in the foreseeable future, a prolonged stalemate in ceasefire talks and peace negotiations, further protracting the conflict, has prompted many to leave Sudan. [Since the beginning of 2024](#), cross-border movements have been increasing more than internal displacement figures, demonstrating the desperation of people. After it was already [dubbed](#) the “world’s largest internal displacement crisis” in 2023, the UN [called](#) the situation in Sudan in early 2024 “one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent memory”.

Demonstrating the regional implications of the war on cross-border displacement, as of October 2024, over 2.9 million Sudanese and third-country nationals have fled the country crossing into

Chad (815,000), the Central African Republic (35,228), Egypt (1,200,000), Ethiopia (149,000), [Libya](#) (100,200) and South Sudan (803,341). Those who do not have the opportunity or means to depart face [widespread fighting and violence](#), causing [immobility](#) and generating (repeated) internal displacement, insecurity, a high risk of [epidemic diseases](#), and hunger. [Reports](#) of sexual- and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls are [rife](#), including in [refugee camps](#) across borders where many have sought refuge. In early August, after months of reported large-scale food insecurity, [famine was confirmed](#) in the Zamzam camp in North Darfur, other areas in Darfur at high-risk. According to the [UN](#), it is estimated half of the population of Sudan is facing a hunger crisis. Sudan ranks among the top four countries globally for the highest rates of global acute malnutrition (GAM), impacting [13.6 percent](#) of its population. Both warring parties in the conflict, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the RSF (Rapid Support Forces) have been accused of using [starvation as a weapon](#). While peace negotiations have been slow and unfruitful, the multiplying impact of multidimensional crises including active conflict, hunger and climate shocks (floods) are leading to Sudan to a 'breaking point', as the International Organization for Migration ([IOM](#)) warned in early August.

Target Audience

This conference seeks to engage a diverse range of actors central to a forward-looking discussion on mixed movement, including national and regional policymakers, donor country representatives, humanitarian practitioners, researchers, grassroots organizations and civil society activists. Moreover, the conference shall prioritize the participation of Sudanese displaced from the present conflict as well as those in protracted situations and/or third-country nationals from Sudan and their first-person accounts of the themes under discussion.

Priority will be given to actors working in or on Sudan and its neighboring countries, namely Chad, the Central African Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan, and Uganda. The participation of actors working farther afield in countries hosting newly displaced Sudanese and third country nationals in East and North Africa and Europe will also be encouraged.

The overarching aim is to bring together **displacement and migration stakeholders and experts** who represent a diversity of experiences and perspectives and are highly committed to reflecting on the state of play and advancing a roadmap that can guide future policy and programming on mixed movement.

Conference Themes

The conference will be organized to critically explore the state-of-play with regarding to evidence, policy and programming on the following themes:

- Broader regional and route-based **mixed movement dynamics** linked to the Sudan war;
- Regional **policies** linked to visa regimes and access to asylum and protection, family reunification, and third country solutions for Sudanese and third-country nationals fleeing the war and the impact of policies on creating barriers to asylum;
- Experiences, challenges, and risks for **women and children** and other highly vulnerable groups, impacted by the Sudan war;
- **Food insecurity** as a stress multiplier factor within a context of multiple crises and mass displacement in Sudan;
- Current evidence blind spots on the mixed movement consequences of the Sudan war and possible **future scenarios**.

Tentative Agenda

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

08:30 – 09:30	Registration and breakfast
09:30 – 10:30	Session 1: Setting the scene What are the most significant mixed movement trends related to the Sudan war that we are seeing at the 600-day mark? How is current programming across the region responding to or accounting for these dynamics?
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 2: Data and evidence on the mixed movement consequences of the war This panel brings together the latest data and analysis to map displacement and routes, onward movement dynamics, future intentions, and geographies of risk.
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Session 3: Mapping the policy landscape This panel examines the protection landscape that Sudanese and third-country nationals fleeing Sudan face when they arrive in neighbouring countries and places of refuge farther afield. Panelists will explore how rights and services are ensured at a local, national, and regional level.
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee
16:00 – 17:30	Session 4: The experiences of women and girls on the move Sudanese and third-country nationals fleeing the Sudan war have reported unprecedented rates of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls. This panel discusses the experiences of women in this war and the targeting programming required to meet their needs.
17:30 -	Reception

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

08:30 – 09:30	Breakfast
09:30 – 10:30	Session 5: Blind-spots, scenarios, and future planning With no end to the conflict in sight, what scenarios should we anticipate <i>versus</i> what are we prepared for vis-à-vis future mixed movement dynamics? What are our blind-spots? How can policy and programming actors ensure protection and solutions along the whole of mixed movement routes?
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 6: Shifting patterns of trafficking in persons and human smuggling Amidst reports that the demand for smugglers in Sudan has increased to help people move across borders and reports of heightened sexual violence and forced conscription by armed groups, this panel examines how human smuggling and trafficking dynamics are transforming in the midst of Sudan's war.
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Session 7: Designing large-scale responses to meet the needs of Sudan and its neighbours How can and should international donors support actors on the ground in Sudan and the region to meet the needs of displaced Sudanese and third-country nationals? This panel brings together grant facility managers, donors, and grassroots organizations, as well as focal points working on Sudan Regional Response Plans and Sudan Humanitarian Response Plans.
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee
16:00 – 17:30	Session 8: Reflections and synthesis The final session of this conference will be organized as an open discussion among all workshop participants. It will feature brief interventions from select participants who have been asked in advance to share key recommendations and ways forward distilled from previous sessions.
17:30 -	Reception