

Sudanese arrivals in Eastern Chad: Protection experiences, needs and onward movement intentions

Since the conflict erupted in Sudan in April 2023, over 2 million people have fled the country, escaping ongoing violence, human rights violations, and a protracted humanitarian crisis.¹ As of 21 October 2024, Chad hosts over 686,067 new Sudanese refugees, most of whom are women and children (89%).² Many Sudanese arriving in Chad are fleeing violence and famine in Darfur,³ and are being hosted in the Ouaddai (464,756), Sila (93,841), Wadi Fira (86,853) and East-Ennedi (7,046) regions.⁴ This snapshot examines the protection incidents, needs, and onward movement intentions of new Sudanese arrivals in Eastern Chad, in the arrival hubs of Adre (Ouaddai) and Tine (Wadi Fira).

Key findings

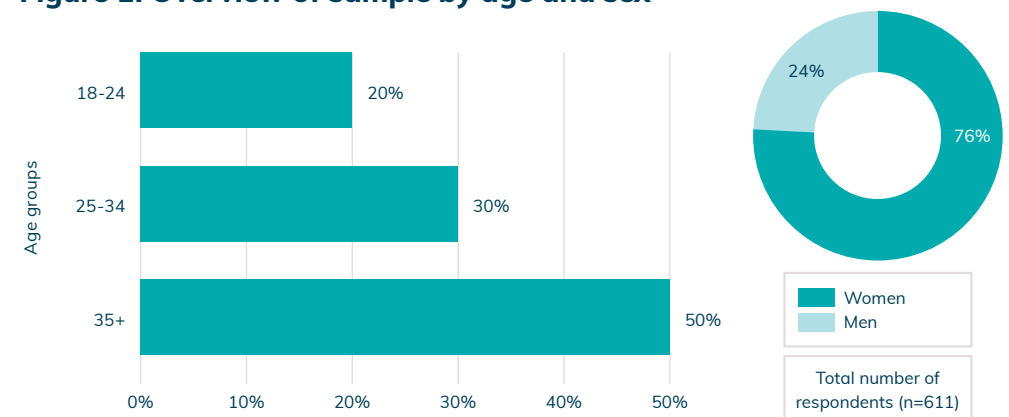
- El Geneina, in Sudan, was perceived as the most dangerous location en route to Eastern Chad by 75% of respondents.
- Nearly all respondents (98%) experienced protection incidents in Sudan, while women were more exposed than men to witnessing death (87%), physical violence (84%), sexual violence (75%), and robbery (63%).
- 95% of respondents reported that children were highly exposed to abuse and harm.
- Although all needs were high during the journey from Sudan to Eastern Chad, food stands out as the greatest concern (90%) in Sudan.
- Nearly all (97%) respondents felt relatively safe in Adre and Tine, though basic needs were high: food (85%), shelter (83%), medical assistance (68%), and water (66%) were the greatest needs in Adre and Tine.
- Most respondents plan to remain in Eastern Chad, over the short (93%) and longer-term

(73%), highlighting an overall lack of onward movement intentions. This may stem from the fact that this group has recently arrived in Chad, is largely comprised of women and children, and is highly vulnerable with high basic needs like food and water, suggesting low capabilities to engage in onward movement.

Data and profiles

This snapshot draws upon 611 4Mi surveys conducted in July 2024 in Eastern Chad with people who fled Sudan after the outbreak of conflict. Some 336 interviews were conducted in Adre (55% of respondents) and 275 in Tine (45%). Almost all respondents (99%) were Sudanese nationals, and most were women between the ages of 35–80 years old from Central Darfur (Figure 1). While MMC carries out non-probability sampling and, hence, the data are not representative, the key demographic characteristics of sampled respondents aligns with estimates of the overall population of arrivals in Eastern Chad.⁵ Respondents in Tine and Adre followed similar socio-demographic tendencies.

Figure 1. Overview of sample by age and sex



1 UNHCR (21 October 2024). [Sudan Situation](#)

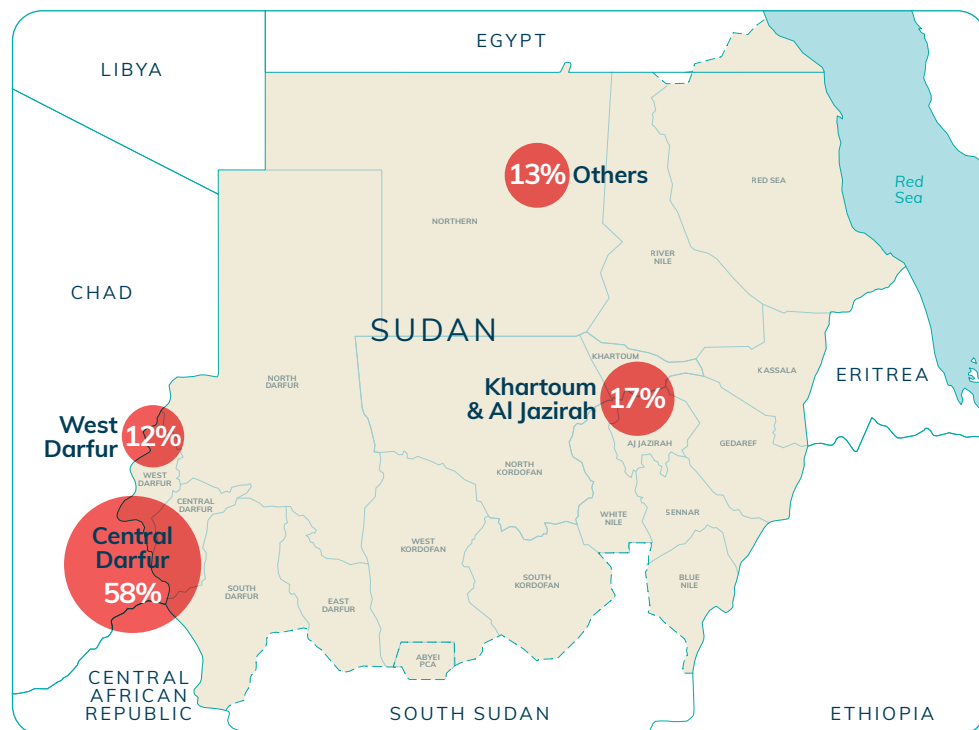
2 UNHCR, op. cit.

3 The Guardian (21 October 2024) [Dispair in Chad camps as violence and hunger in Sudan driver 25,000 across border in a week](#)

4 UNHCR, op. cit.

5 UNHCR, op. cit.

Map 1. Overview of sample by region of origin



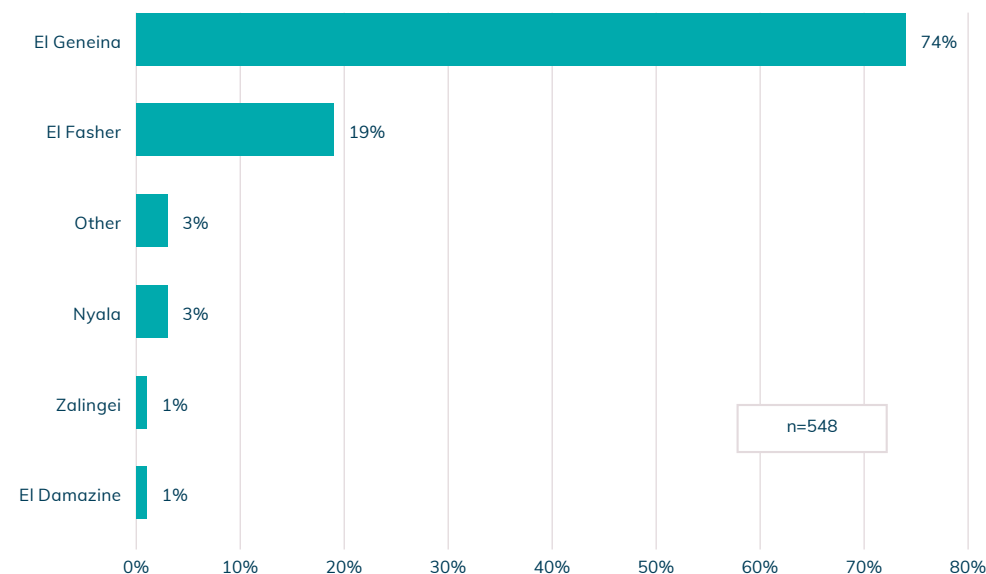
Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UNHCR and MMC.

El Geneina perceived as the most dangerous location en route to Eastern Chad

The Sudanese towns of El Geneina (74%) and El Fasher (19%) were cited as the most dangerous locations on respondents' journeys to Eastern Chad (Figure 2). Both locations have been plagued by clashes between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces and by reports of ethnically motivated violence, sexual violence, and looting.⁶ Indeed, 70% of respondents perceived that militia/armed groups and the military were the main perpetrators of abuses in these locations.

⁶ United Nations (21 December 2023) [Press release: Statement by Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu, United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, on the situation in Sudan](#); Al Jazeera (22 April 2024). [Sudan war could lead to more ethnic killings in volatile Darfur region](#)

Figure 2. What was the most dangerous location on your journey? All journeys were from locations within Sudan to Eastern Chad

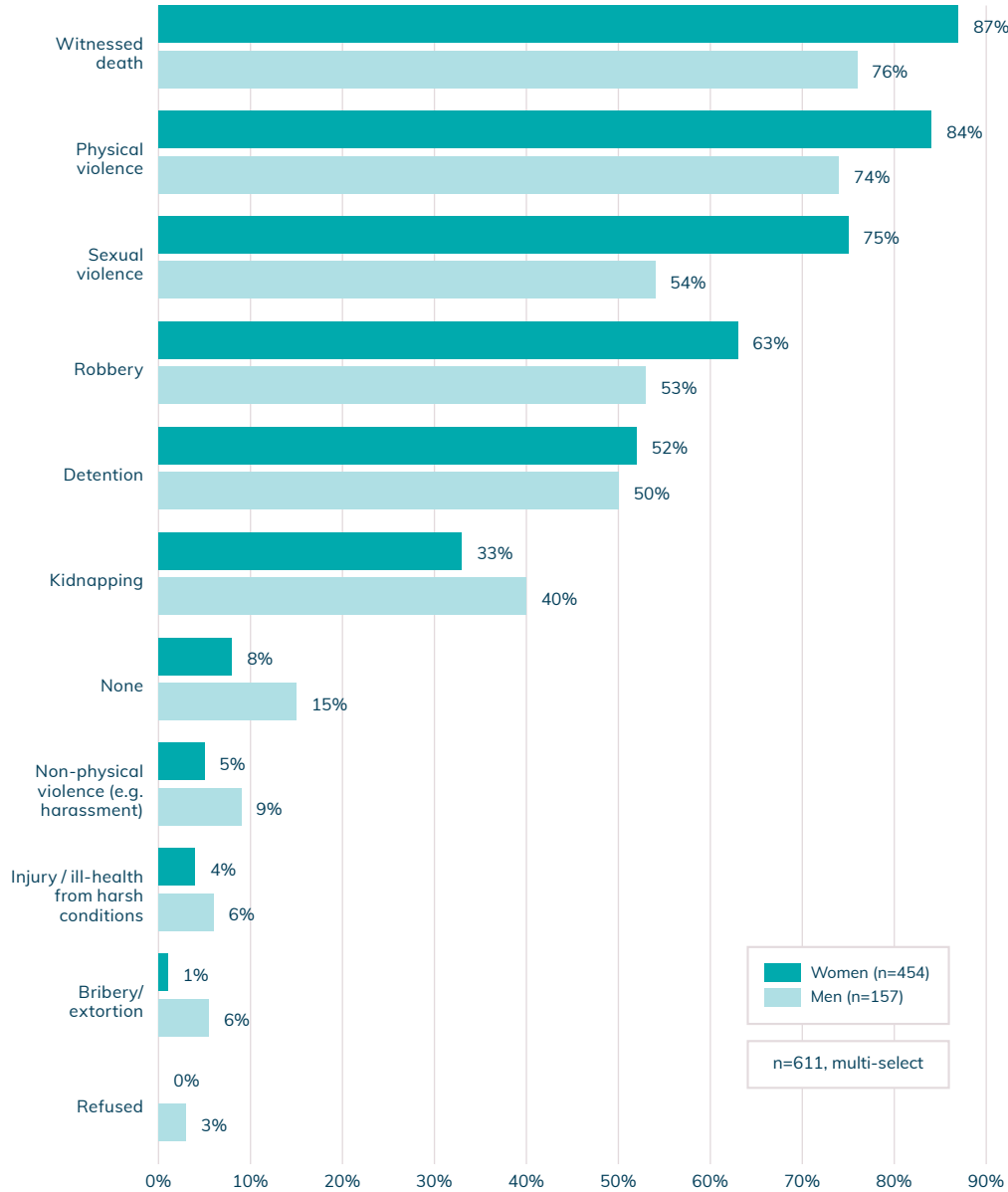


Nearly all respondents experienced protection incidents in Sudan

Nearly all respondents experienced protection incidents in Sudan (98%), with many experiencing more than one type of abuse. The most cited abuses were witnessing death (84%), physical (82%) and sexual violence (70%), robbery (61%), detention (52%), and kidnapping (35%). The high prevalence of extreme forms of abuse suggests that arrivals are likely experiencing severe trauma, which would align with the high need for psychosocial support reported later in this snapshot.⁷

⁷ United Nations (7 June 2024). [“Unimaginable trauma” haunts Sudan’s displaced while violence, famine threaten millions” here](#)

Figure 3. Have you personally experienced any of these types of incidents on your journey?



Women consistently reported slightly more abuses than men for the top four protection incidents, highlighting the specific vulnerability of women in this conflict (Figure 3). The widest gap pertains to sexual violence, faced by 75% of women and 54% of men – high rates, given that much sexual violence generally goes unreported. Men slightly more often reported kidnapping, which may be linked to forced conscription by parties to the conflict.⁸ Older respondents (above 60 years old) also more often reported abuses than respondents from other age groups, particularly for physical violence (90%), sexual violence (76%), detention (71%), and kidnapping (58%), showcasing the existence of age-specific vulnerabilities in the conflict and calling for protection programming that is age-sensitive.

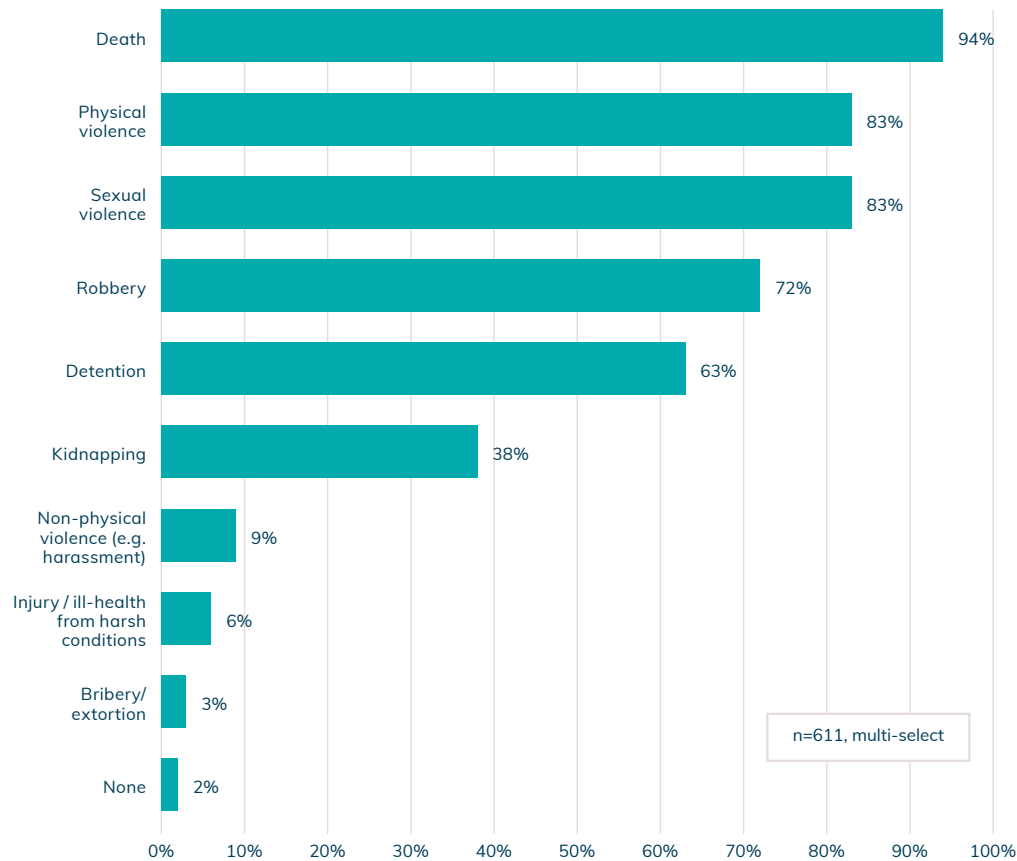
Children perceived as particularly exposed to abuse during the journey

A vast majority of respondents (95%) noted that children were particularly vulnerable during the journey. Death (94%), physical and sexual violence (83% each), robbery (72%), detention (63%), and kidnapping (38%) were the most prominent risks for children (Figure 4). According to UNHCR registration data, 88% of new Sudanese refugees in Chad are women and children, underlining the large protection challenges for this age group.⁹ Although no children were interviewed, 68% of respondents were travelling with children in their care, with more than a third of them (37%) travelling with five or more children.

⁸ UNHCR (14 October 2024). [Afflux des Réfugiés du Soudan](#)

⁹ UNHCR, op. cit.

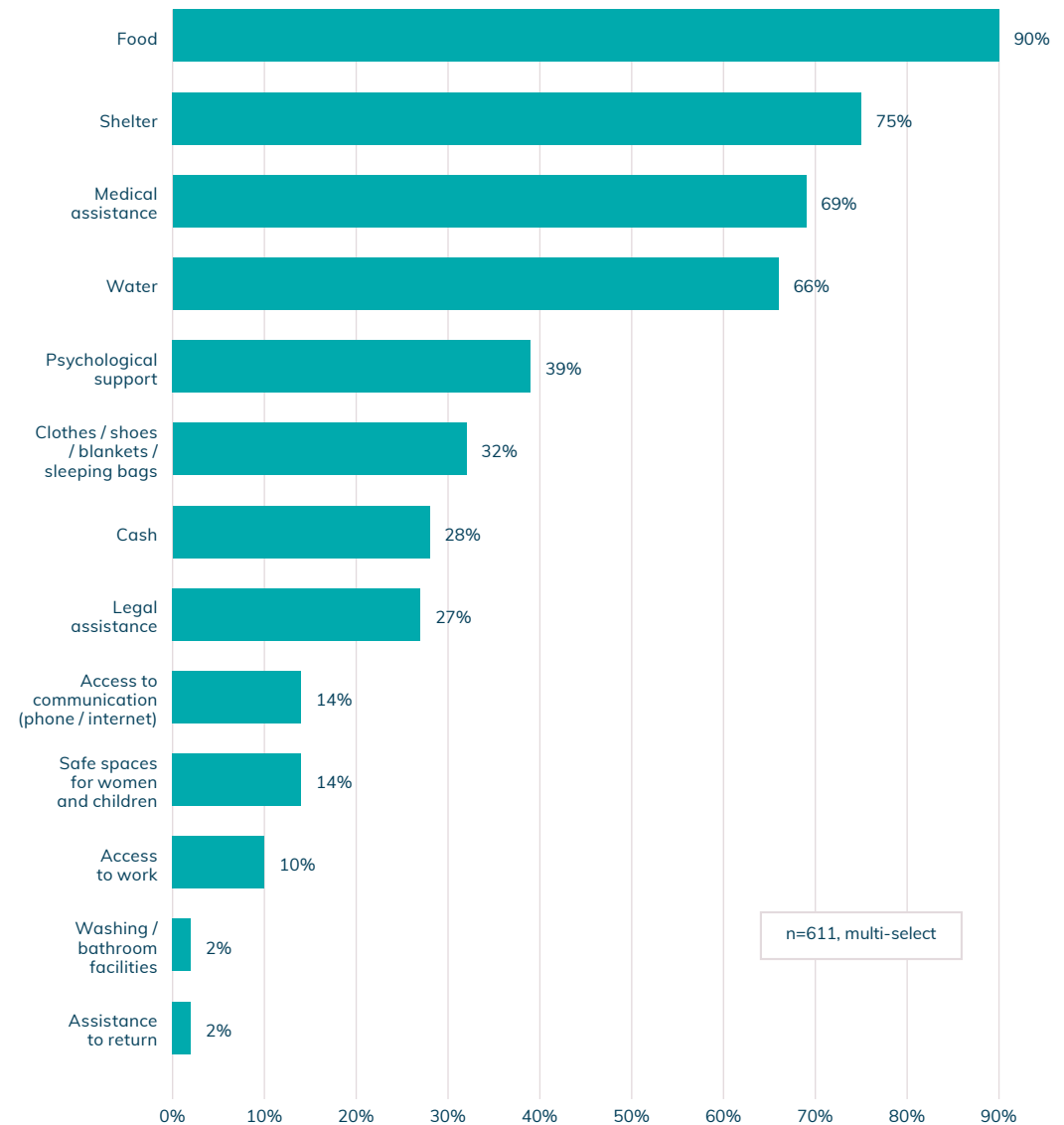
Figure 4. What do you consider were the main risks for children under 18?



Although all needs were high along the route, food was the most acute concern

Respondents cited El Geneina (81%) and El Fasher (13%), in Sudan, as the main locations where they needed assistance the most and did not receive it. Food (90%), followed by shelter (75%), medical assistance (69%), and water (66%) were respondents' main needs in these locations. In September 2024, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) reported on the widespread starvation crisis in Darfur, underlining food as the major concern for the Sudanese people.¹⁰

Figure 5. What were you most in need of [in the main location where you needed assistance]?

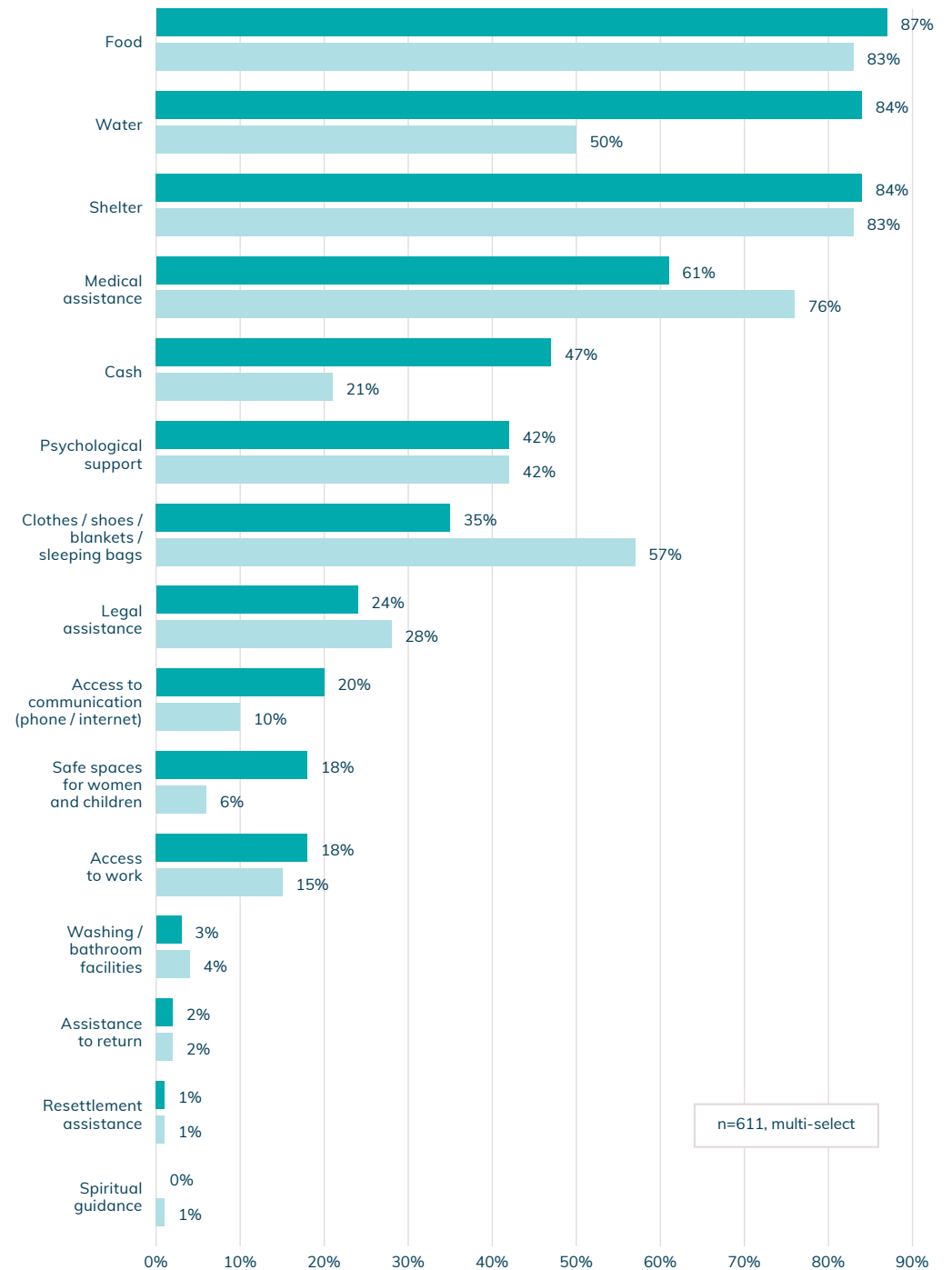


¹⁰ NRC (3 September 2023). "[Sudan: Starvation crisis reaches historic proportions](#)".

Respondents overwhelmingly feel safe in Adre and Tine, but basic needs remain high

Upon arriving in Adre and Tine, almost all the respondents (over 97%) reported feeling safe (11%) or very safe (86%). Despite this, concerns for basic needs were high for 89% of respondents across Adre and Tine. The need for assistance was consistent across sex and age groups. Specifically, 85% of respondents reported needing food, shelter (84%), medical assistance (68%), and water (66%). Some needs, however, differed significantly between respondents in Adre and Tine (Figure 6), with respondents in Tine facing a greater need for water (84% vs. 50% in Adre) and cash (47% vs. 21% in Adre). The findings suggest a need for integrated and sustainable refugee aid and community-based protection programming so that basic needs are prioritised while the safety of communities can continue to be supported.

Figure 6. What kind of assistance do you need?



Most respondents intended to remain in Chad, both in the short and long term

93% of respondents planned to stay in their current location in Chad for the next three months. This figure was slightly lower in Tine (66%) than in Adre (77%) and could be linked to the slightly higher needs reported in Tine. In addition, 73% of respondents reported having reached the end of their journey, indicating their intention to remain in Tine and Adre over the longer term. Of note, the majority (75%) of those who reported not having reached the end of their journey, intended to move to other locations within Chad. Overall, the data reveal a lack of onward movement intentions. These intentions may stem from the generally safe conditions that respondents are currently perceiving in Tine and Adre, combined with their extremely low capabilities to engage in and afford onward movement, as evidenced by their high need for basic necessities like food, water, and shelter. The intention to remain may also be linked to respondents' demographic profiles: most are women who are traveling with children in their care and, hence, likely to be less mobile. In the context of Adre, the desire to remain may challenge plans for Adre to serve only as a temporary transit camp.¹¹ While 76% of respondents overall indicated they would return to Sudan someday if the conflict ended, 17% (4% in Adre and 33% in Tine) stated they would never return under any circumstance.



4Mi data collection

[4Mi](#) is the Mixed Migration Centre's flagship primary data collection system, an innovative approach that helps fill knowledge gaps, and inform policy and response regarding the nature of mixed migratory movements and the protection risks for refugees and migrants on the move. 4Mi field enumerators are currently collecting data through direct interviews with refugees and migrants in East and Southern Africa, North Africa, West Africa, Europe, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Note that the sampling approach means that the findings derived from the surveyed sample provide rich insights, but the figures cannot be used to make inferences about the total population. See more 4Mi analysis and details on methodology at:

www.mixedmigration.org/4mi

¹¹ Interviews with humanitarian organisations and authorities in N'Djamena and Adre, June 2024.