

Media Update-2

27 June 2024

UNHCR

PRESS RELEASE

UNHCR calls for solidarity and solutions for Afghan refugees

ISLAMABAD, 27 June 2024: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency Thursday lauded the people and government of Pakistan for hosting Afghan refugees for over four decades and called for protecting those seeking safety in Pakistan.

UNHCR acknowledged that as Pakistan has been facing its own challenges, the country's generosity must be matched with international responsibility-sharing.

World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It's marked annually, and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. According to UNHCR's flagship global trends report, global forced displacement rose to 120 million by May 2024, of which some 43 million are refugees.

Tragically, about 40 per cent of all displaced individuals are children aged 17 or under, highlighting the profound impact on young lives.

Reflecting the global 2024 theme, "solidarity with and solutions for refugees" an event was held in Islamabad to pay tribute to refugees and express appreciation for the enduring generosity of the communities hosting them.

The event was attended by Federal Minister for SAFRON, Amir Muqam, UNHCR's National Goodwill Ambassador Mahira Khan as well as other members of the government and civil society.

UNHCR's Representative in Pakistan, Philippa Candler, expressed concern at the increase in the number of people forcefully displaced from their homes across the world, and paid tribute to their resilience. "I am inspired by the many Afghan refugees I have met in Pakistan, whose strength, ambition and determination are an example to us all," she said.

The Representative called for all stakeholders to seize the opportunity to commit to a more ordered and predictable refugee management policy, show compassion for people forced to flee and seek solutions to their plight. "We can all do more to show solidarity with refugees. No action is too small, whether it's welcoming a refugee into your community or advocating for their protection," she added.

The Federal Minister underlined the financial challenges of Pakistan in hosting Afghans in the country, and noted the generous support of the international community. However, he emphasised that international attention is dwindling and continued solidarity is a must.

UNHCR's Goodwill Ambassador Mahira Khan called for a renewed collective pledge to stand with refugees. "Let us work together to ensure that every displaced person has access to safety, dignity, and a place to call home".

Ends

Media contact

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WFP
NEWS

Dear Media colleagues,

Please find a package of video and interviews from Sudan, South Sudan and Chad showing displacement, malnutrition, and WFP cross border response. It highlights the forthcoming IPC data that projects a rapid deterioration in conditions for the people of Sudan, particularly children, as food security is torn apart by war.

Download video, shotlist and info here: <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/YXqf1DIMpq>

View IPC Snapshot Here: <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1157066/?iso3=SDN>

Shotlist/Info:

WFP News Video: Sudan-New Data Shows World's Largest Displacement Crisis Has Also Become World's Largest Hunger Crisis

Sudan, South Sudan, Italy, Chad

Shot: 4-24June24

TRT: 3:16

:00-:31

New Arrivals from Sudan to South Sudan

More than 700,000 people have fled across the border to South Sudan since the outbreak of fighting last April – with thousands continuing to cross every week. Families are arriving with stories of long journeys with little food or water, citing violence and lack of food as the main reasons that they left Sudan. Conditions at the transit centre in Renk are poor: people don't have access to tents and are using whatever they can find as shelter or shade from the brutal heat (+40c). The rains have started which will create even more unsanitary conditions. Malnutrition amongst displaced children at the transit centre in Renk is at 20 percent.

Renk, South Sudan

Shot: 17June24

:31-:54

GV's Displaced People Living in a School

Sudan is now the largest displacement crises globally, hosting more than 10 million internally displaced people as of 6 June 2024 (*this figure includes IDP populations before the crisis*). Over 2 million people have also fled across borders since the conflict began mid-April 2023.

Port Sudan, Sudan

Shot: 4June24

:54-1:20

SOT Alfatih Awad Alkheder (Arabic): Alfatih is a trader with 6 children..some of them ill with chronic disease. They fled Khartoum after the fighting started and are living in a school in Port Sudan .

“They suffered severely in terms of health; even their sizes diminished. There was no growth. Before the war, for children during six months or a year, you would usually notice different stages

of growth. When the war happened, these children not only stopped growing but their sizes even reduced. The stages of growth may be delayed or even nonexistent.”

Port Sudan

Shot: 3June24

1:20-1:52

Children Being Tested for Malnutrition

At this clinic in Port Sudan, displaced children are being tested for malnutrition. Malnourished children are treated with special peanut based food products. The red showing in the arm band indicates severe malnutrition requiring hospitalization.

The rapid deterioration in food security in Sudan has left 755,000 people in famine-like/catastrophic conditions (IPC5) with 25.6 million people in crisis levels of hunger (IPC3+), according to the latest data released by the Integrated Phase Classification. This means that for half of Sudan’s war-battered population every single day is a struggle to put enough food on their plates. This is the first time that catastrophic (IPC5) conditions have ever been confirmed in Sudan since the IPC’s inception in 2004

Port Sudan

Shot: 4June24

1:52-2:44

SOT Eddie Rowe, WFP Sudan Country Director (English):

“We are in a race against time, not only to have enough resources, but also to be able to deliver these resources to people who are on the verge of starvation. And when you talk of the world’s largest hunger crisis we’re looking at half of the country, over 25 million Sudanese are categorized as acute food insecure.//If we have access and funding, we will be able to avert an outright famine.”

Rome, Italy

Shot: 24June24

2:44-3:16

WFP Trucks Carrying Food Crossing Chad Border into Sudan

Currently the only open cross-border route into the Darfur region is from Tine (Chad) border into North Darfur but, intensified fighting in El Fasher is preventing trucks from moving into North Darfur’s capital city. Over 1 million people received assistance via the Adre (Chad) to West Darfur route when it was open last year between August and December.

Tine, Chad

Shot:10June24

ENDS

Info:

View IPC Snapshot here:

<https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1157066/?iso3=SDN>

[1] Last pre-conflict IPC during the lean season indicated 11.7 million people in IPC3 [IPC Sudan AcuteFoodInsecurity 2022Apr2023Feb snapshot.pdf \(ipcinfo.org\)](#)
[2] Beneficiaries targeted for assistance by WFP in 2024 was revised from 4 million to over 8 million.