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South Sudan Response to the Sudan Emergency Vulnerability Criteria for Targeted Assistance

30 April 2023

Rationale:

As Sudan enters its third week of clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) neighboring countries continue to develop contingency plans and preparedness activities that need to be in place for an immediate response as unconfirmed reports of people moving towards the Chad, South Sudan and Egyptian borders continue.

During the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meeting on April 18th, various situations and population influx estimates were discussed with a particular scenario being endorsed. The scenarios anticipate a fragile ceasefire and the presence of a central government in Khartoum facing ongoing localized conflicts between the RSF and SAF (with violence in Darfur extending to the Kordofans and Blue Nile regions). This scenario would lead to adverse consequences for local civilian populations and estimates an influx of 45,000 refugees and 180,000 returning South Sudanese individuals and third country nationals. The response, jointly spearheaded by UNHCR and IOM, aims to address the needs of the most vulnerable (approximately 20%) of those fleeing from Sudan. Therefore, humanitarian, and governmental agencies located at the various border crossings will conduct a rapid vulnerability assessment to ensure that the most vulnerable are identified and assisted.

Definition and objective

This rapid vulnerability assessment is a quick evaluation of the risks and needs of individuals or households who have fled to South Sudan from Sudan. The assessment aims to identify the most vulnerable individuals or households entering to South Sudan at various border points and provide them with the necessary, targeted, efficient multi-sectoral assistance- including cash assistance- as quickly as possible.



The assessment should include an evaluation that explores Sudanese refugees, South Sudanese returnees, and third country nationals’ risks, needs, vulnerabilities and capacities as well as their individual and household protective and risk factors across various determinants of vulnerability such as household, individual, age, sex, health, economic status, specific protection risks, family unity, disability, legal risks, family, and community ties, among others. This rapid vulnerability assessment may be conducted by government agencies, humanitarian organizations, or local communities. As such, this rapid assessment is designed to empower non-protection actors in recognizing non-specialized vulnerabilities, thereby facilitating the provision of essential assistance to safeguard individuals at risk. Nevertheless, in cases where a specialized vulnerability is detected, it is imperative to establish mechanisms that involves specialized partners in the evaluation/ assessment process.

Vulnerability categories:

Vulnerability category	Non-specialized Vulnerability	Specialized Vulnerability
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Severe Disability - Demonstrated severe medical condition - Households with a family member who was injured in the conflict. - Demonstrated disability or injury- permanent or long-term serious impairment of mobility or capacity - Severe Malnutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Psycho-social disorder / trauma - Sick person in Household- requires medical care - Households with a family member who has a chronic health condition and requires ongoing medical care - Survivors of torture and violence/GBV/ Human trafficking - Individuals or households with specialized food and nutrition needs
Household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elderly (60+) without family support - Single Parent Household with more than one child under 15) 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Households with 2 or more children aged 0-5 - Households with one or more person with specific needs (disability, chronic illness, physical and other mental disorders etc) 	
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female headed household with more than 2 children aged 0-5 - Pregnant and lactating women - Post-natal women or girls (less than 2 months) - Women and girls who suffered birth-related complications e.g., fistula and other trauma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women and girls with safety concerns. - Separated from family / husband (while fleeing) - Single women at risk
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child with disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children with safety concerns. - Children associated with armed groups - Children at risk of exploitation, violence, and abuse - Unaccompanied minors - Separated children traveling with family members or foster care to be reunited with parents in South Sudan or another country - Child-headed household
Legal risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of identity documents or potentially unable to establish their South Sudanese origins or third country nationality origins - Detained / held in Sudan before fleeing - Marginalized from society or community 	



Family Unity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family reunification needed in South Sudan and unable to cover cost of transportation - Family reunification needed outside South Sudan and unable to cover cost of transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tracing required
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How will the vulnerability criteria be used?

The established vulnerability criteria will be utilized during the initial prescreening process at border crossing, individuals at risk will be identified and subsequently deemed eligible for further assessment and provision of an assistance package at the reception center.

- Upon the arrival of a household at the border crossing, a border monitoring form, collaboratively developed by UNHCR and IOM, shall be completed and uploaded by UNHCR, IOM, RRC, and relevant partners into a joint central dashboard.
- This form encompasses non-identifiable information to understand trends, patterns, and statistics without putting the privacy and security of individuals at risk.
- This form will include questions addressing the vulnerability criteria previously outlined.
- Once a household at risk/ vulnerable household is identified they will be referred to the reception center where further assessments/ registration will take place to determine if further assistance is needed. **In the event that a household is recognized as possessing a "specialized vulnerability," it will be referred to the appropriate specialized partners such as child-friendly spaces, women and girls-friendly spaces. These partners will then assume the responsibility for conducting further assessments and supplying the necessary assistance tailored to the specific needs of the household.**



- With data being regularly updated, the jointly managed dashboard will help to identify vulnerable populations, areas with the greatest needs, and areas where resources might be lacking, allowing organizations and partners to target their efforts more effectively

Data collection and Sharing:

Personal Data of people at risk will be collected according to UNHCR’s and IOM’s general policies on Personal Data Protection and Privacy.¹ For the purpose of the IOM-UNHCR shared public dashboard, any data shared will be done according to the UNHCR and IOM data sharing agreement that outlines their commitment to sharing information relevant to their operations as well as relevant information of interest to the media, NGOs and the public about people of joint concern or to promote public awareness of the situation of persons of concern to each organization to address their needs.² as well as the Joint IOM-UNHCR Letter on Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration, which expresses their commitment to discuss and engage on mechanisms for data sharing with other humanitarian partners to ensure broad support.³

Assistance Package

Assistance Packages designated for at-risk people may encompass cash assistance, NFIs, food assistance, transportation, legal guidance, and additional components tailored to individual and household needs. Coordination of this assistance will be facilitated through the established mechanism at border cross points and locations where people at risk/vulnerable people are situated.

¹ <https://www.refworld.org/docid/63d3bdf94.html>

² <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b31a70.html>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/joint-iom-unhcr-letter-global-compact-safe-regular-and-orderly-migration>