



CROSS-BORDER DISPLACEMENT DURING ONE YEAR OF CONFLICT IN SUDAN APRIL 2023 - APRIL 2024



IOM • OIM

DTM

APRIL 2023 - APRIL 2024

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report was produced in partnership with [Social Inquiry](#), a non-profit research organization focused on cross-disciplinary research in conflict-affected settings. The report provides an overview and contextual analysis of cross-border movements from Sudan to neighbouring countries during one year of the conflict.

DTM provided updates on cross-border movements from Sudan into neighbouring countries on a weekly basis from April 2023 to April 2024. Researchers from Social Inquiry analysed DTM data from 15 April 2023 to 07 April 2024.

The latest estimates on cross-border movements are available on the [DTM-IOM Sudan website](#). Data collection is based on DTM Flow Monitoring and Mobility Tracking methodologies. Data collection on cross-border movement was collected through DTM field teams, partners, and national authorities. For further information, see [DTM Methodological Note](#).

KEY FINDINGS

Within one year of conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), over six million individuals were displaced internally within Sudan and over two million individuals reportedly crossed borders into neighbouring countries, including Central African Republic (C.A.R), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, and South Sudan.

Approximately 63 per cent of arrivals tracked in these countries were Sudanese nationals, while an estimated 37 per cent were foreign nationals or returnees. The majority of cross-border movements were reported in Chad (36%), South Sudan (32%), and Egypt (25%).

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) provided updates on cross-border movements from Sudan into neighbouring countries on a weekly basis from April 2023 to April 2024. The following report provides an overview and contextual analysis of mixed cross-border movements from Sudan to neighbouring countries during the first year of conflict (15 April 2023 - 07 April 2024).

Key Findings:

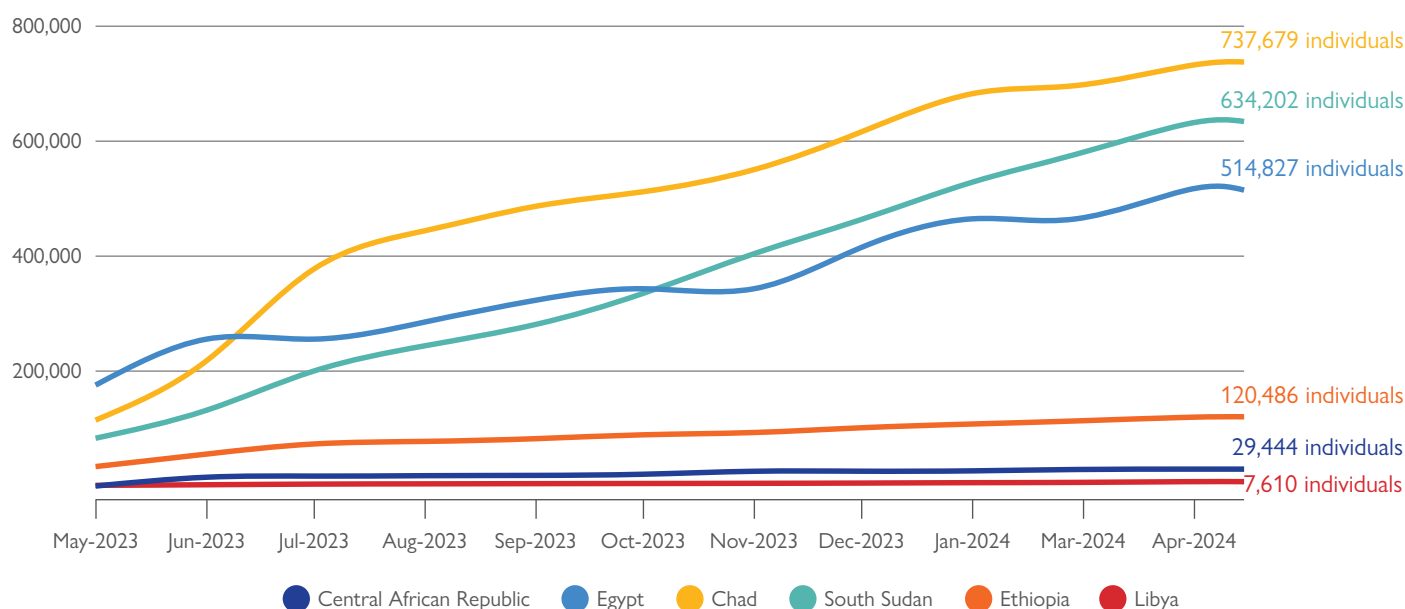
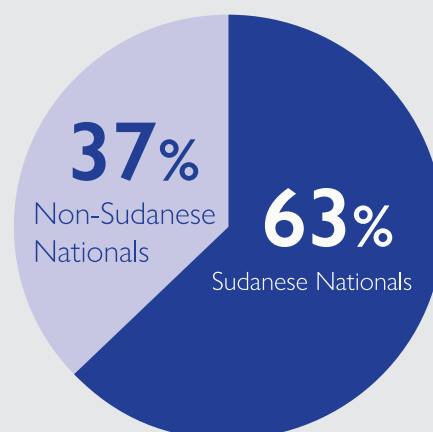
- An estimated 2,044,248 individuals displaced across borders from Sudan into neighboring countries during one year of conflict between SAF and RSF.
- Most displacement occurred during the first months of the conflict, between April and June 2023, and surged again between December 2023 and January 2024, reflecting the escalation of conflict in the Kordofan states and the [expansion of conflict into Aj Jazirah state](#).
- An average of approximately 170,000 individuals crossed the borders each month from Sudan into neighbouring states between April 2023 and April 2024.
- Chad received the highest influx of cross-border movements, with an estimated 737,679 individuals arriving in Chad from Sudan between April 2023 and April 2024. Most were reportedly displaced due to clashes across West and Central Darfur during the first months of the conflict.

Note: This report analyzes displacement within one year of conflict in Sudan, between April 2023 and April 2024. The most updated figures on displacement and mobility in Sudan are available on the [DTM-IOM Sudan website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

 **2,044,248**
Individuals crossed borders from Sudan into neighbouring countries between April 2023 to April 2024

 **170,000**
Individuals Crossed border each month from Sudan between April 2023 - April 2024



Graph 1: Cross-Border Movement from April 2023 to April 2024

INTRODUCTION

On 15 April 2023, armed conflict erupted in Sudan between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). The conflict displaced millions of individuals, creating the world's largest displacement crisis. By the one-year milestone of the conflict, IOM DTM estimated that 6,657,550 individuals were displaced within Sudan and an estimated 2,044,248 crossed borders from Sudan into neighbouring countries.¹ Prior to the outbreak of conflict, Sudan already represented a context of protracted displacement, largely due to conflict in the Darfur states beginning in 2003-2004.²

Of the two million individuals who crossed borders, more than one million were Sudanese nationals, representing more than double the number of Sudanese nationals recorded in neighbouring countries prior to 15 April 2023. The remaining 750,000 were either nationals from the neighbouring countries who previously resided in Sudan or third country nationals. Thus, the conflict not only created extensive internal displacement across Sudan, but also triggered significant cross-border displacement.

The onset of conflict on 15 April 2023 significantly shifted displacement dynamics in Sudan: there were two times more individuals displaced during one year of conflict, between 15 April 2023 and April 2024, than from 2003 to 2022. Khartoum

became the top state of origin for displaced individuals, with more than 3.5 million individuals from the capital state displaced internally within one year of the conflict, in addition to those who fled across borders.

During 2024, the conflict gradually advanced eastwards, the eastern states of Sudan offered less of a buffer for conflict-affected individuals. The expansion of conflict eastwards may increasingly push individuals to seek flee across borders. In addition, Khartoum remains heavily disputed a year after the start of the conflict, making widespread population returns largely unfeasible. Darfur and Kordofan states are likely to remain conflict hotspots.

This report explores trends in cross-border displacement from Sudan to neighbouring countries between April 2023 and April 2024, analyzing data on displacement to Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Egypt, Libya and South Sudan. Past conflicts were centred primarily around the Darfur and Kordofan regions, across the western half of the country. Affected populations were displaced mainly from rural areas and sought shelter in formal and informal camps, either within the Darfur and Kordofan regions or across the borders in Chad and South Sudan.

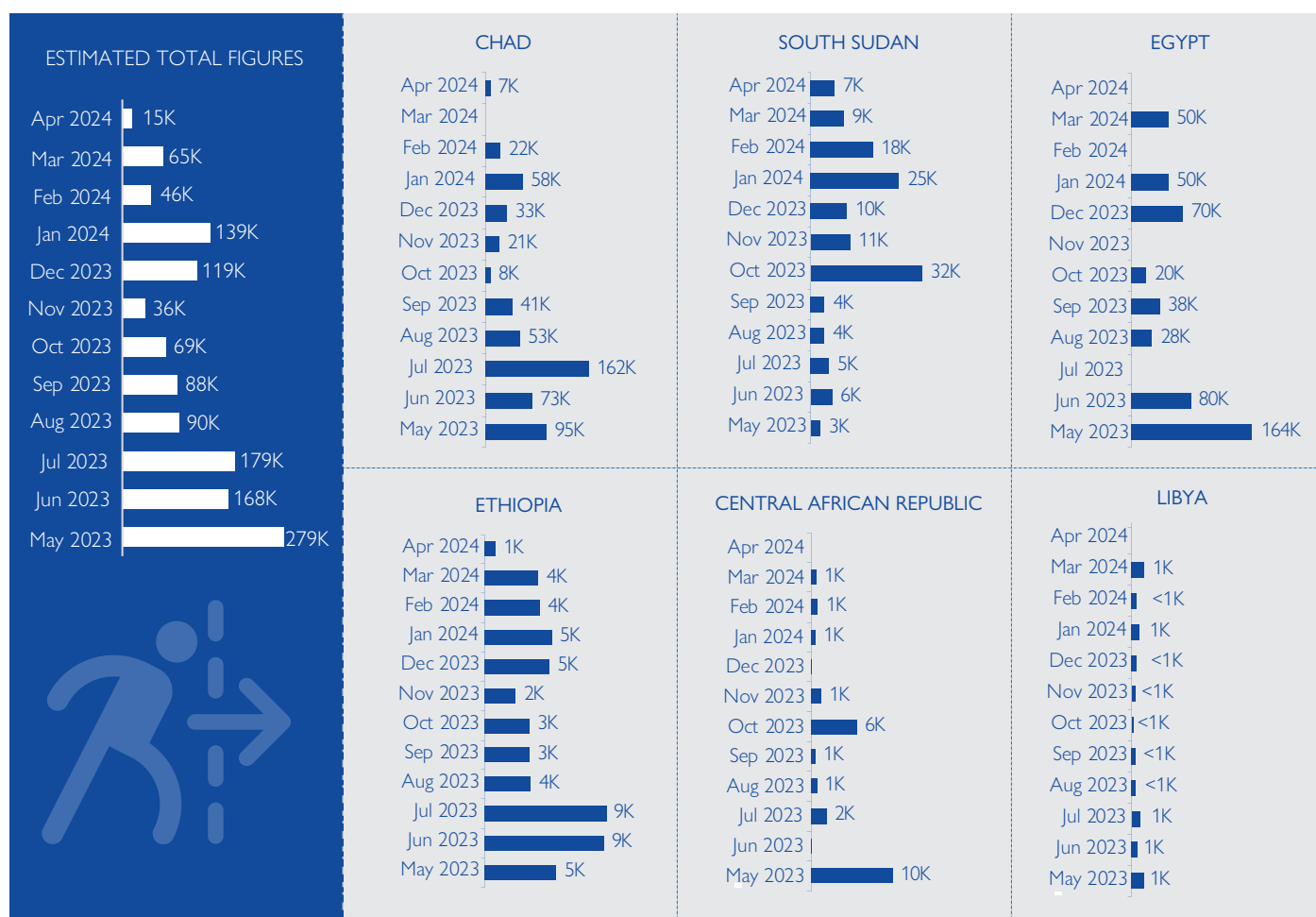


Table 1: Estimated Sudanese Nationals Displaced to Neighbouring Countries, April 2023 - April 2024

1. Data on displacement is regularly updated on the [DTM-IOM website](#).

2. As of 15 March 2023, Sudan hosted an estimated [3,820,772 IDPs](#). Of the IDPs displaced prior to 15 April 2023, an estimated 27 per cent (1,020,676 IDPs) experienced secondary or tertiary displacement due to armed clashes after 15 April 2023, according to data from 03 July 2024.

Chad		
Estimated pre-conflict population	409,819	Chad hosted the largest influx of Sudanese nationals from Darfur, who mostly sheltered in transit camps or shelters within the immediate border provinces. These provinces already hosted a large population of Sudanese nationals before the outbreak of the conflict in 2023. Since 15 April 2023, an estimated additional 165,000 Chadian nationals also crossed the border into Chad.
Arrivals of Sudanese nationals since April 2023	571,815	
Arrivals of Chadian nationals since April 2023	165,499	
Arrivals of third-country nationals since April 2023	365	
SOUTH SUDAN		
Estimated pre-conflict population	289,797	Most cross-border displacement consisted of South Sudanese nationals leaving Khartoum, White Nile and Aj Jazirah states. Displaced families were mostly clustered in overcrowded locations along the border. These areas were also significantly prone to conflict due to internal conflict dynamics in South Sudan.
Arrivals of Sudanese nationals since April 2023	128,636	
Arrivals of South Sudanese nationals since April 2023	500,663	
Arrivals of third-country nationals since April 2023	4,903	
EGYPT		
Estimated pre-conflict population	60,779	Cross-border displacement consisted primarily of Sudanese nationals from Khartoum arriving in urban areas in Egypt, primarily in Cairo and Aswan. The cost of living was reportedly the biggest challenge among displaced communities in Egypt.
Arrivals of Sudanese nationals since April 2023	500,000	
Arrivals of Egyptian nationals since April 2023	6,000	
Arrivals of third-country nationals since April 2023	8,827	
ETHIOPIA		
Estimated pre-conflict population	48,964	Cross-border displacement included Sudanese nationals, Ethiopian nationals, and third-country nationals transiting through Ethiopia. Despite the conflict in the border region between Sudan and Ethiopia, the area remained a top destination within Ethiopia for displaced households.
Arrivals of Sudanese nationals since April 2023	55,762	
Arrivals of Ethiopian nationals since April 2023	47,843	
Arrivals of third-country nationals since April 2023	16,877	
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)		
Estimated pre-conflict population	482	Cross-border displacement was characterized by a relatively small influx of Sudanese nationals due to insecurity in the region bordering the Central African Republic. These areas reportedly represented a highly militarized environment and posed access challenges for humanitarian actors. Most of the Sudanese nationals displaced to C.A.R. originated from South Darfur.
Arrivals of Sudanese nationals since April 2023	23,286	
Arrivals of C.A.R. nationals since April 2023	6,158	
Arrivals of third-country nationals since April 2023	0	
LIBYA		
Estimated pre-conflict population	21,684	Compared to other neighbouring countries, there was a relatively small reported influx of Sudanese nationals to Libya. The border crossing posed major risks for displaced individuals, and includes irregular migratory routes towards the Central Mediterranean. The number of cross-border movements reported likely represents an underestimation due to challenges in capturing movement across the border.
Arrivals of Sudanese nationals since April 2023	6,952	
Arrivals of Libyan nationals since April 2023	600	
Arrivals of third-country nationals since April 2023	502	

Table 2: Cross-border Movement from Sudan to Neighbouring Countries , April 2023 - April 2024³

3. For estimated figures of Sudanese nationals in neighbouring countries prior to 15 April 2023, see: [Sudan and South Sudan | Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and IDPs - 31 March 2023](#).

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT INTO CHAD

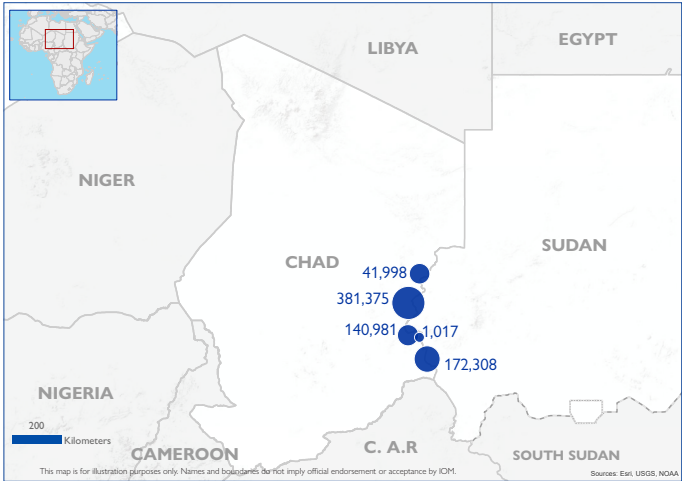
An estimated 737,679 individuals crossed the border into Chad between April 2023 and April 2024, representing the largest reported cross-border movement out of Sudan since 15 April 2023. The majority (approximately 78%) of displaced individuals who arrived in Chad were Sudanese nationals, primarily from the Darfur region, while an estimated 22 per cent were Chadian nationals.

Most recorded cross-border movement occurred during the first months of the conflict. However, the largest peak was reported in July 2023, reflecting the escalation of clashes across West and Central Darfur states, as reported by [DTM Early Warning Flash Alerts](#).

Most individuals reportedly arrived in Chad through the Ouaddaï region, crossing via the Adré border point. Smaller populations of displaced individuals were reported in the regions of Chad that border North Darfur, such as Wadi Fira and Ennedi Est.

[Increased clashes](#) across Al Fasher town, North Darfur throughout April and May 2024 may spur secondary or tertiary displacement of IDPs both within North Darfur state and across borders into Chad and Libya.

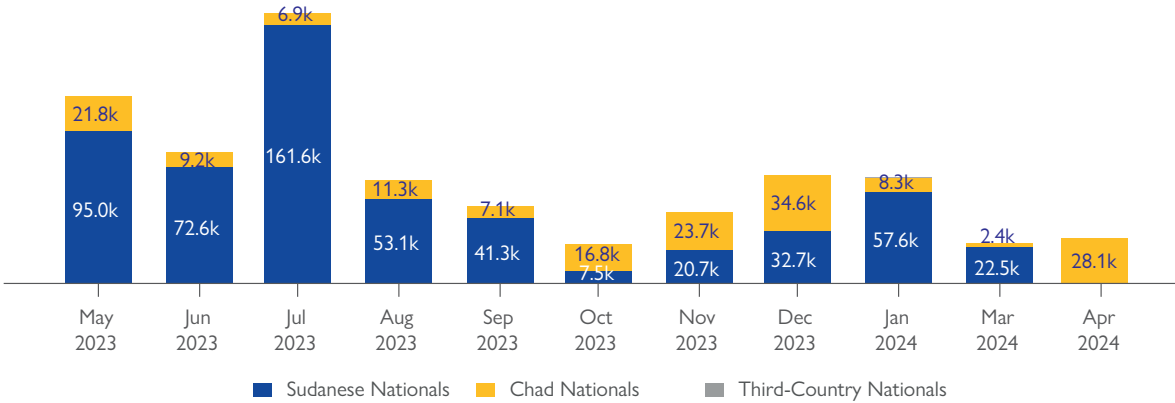
These provinces already hosted a large population of Sudanese nationals who were displaced before the outbreak of conflict in 2023, mostly in the early 2000s due to conflict in Darfur. However, the number of displaced Sudanese nationals in eastern Chad more than doubled between April 2023 and April 2024, from 410,000 individuals prior to April 2023 to just under a million individuals with the additional arrival of close to 572,000 Sudanese nationals by 07 April 2024.



Map 1: Population estimates for Chad- Sudan cross border displacement, 2023

In addition, a total of 166,000 non-Sudanese nationals crossed into Chad between April 2023 and April 2024, the majority of whom were reportedly Chadian nationals returning to Chad. Notably, there were [an estimated 4,600 Chadian refugees](#) reportedly registered in Sudan prior to the outbreak of conflict on 15 April 2023.

Most IDPs from Sudan in Chad reportedly sheltered in transit camps or shelters within the immediate border provinces. In addition to camps, many displaced households reportedly stayed in informal settlements or open gathering sites.



Graph 2: Cross-Border Movement from Sudan to Chad, April 2023 to April 2024

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT INTO SOUTH SUDAN

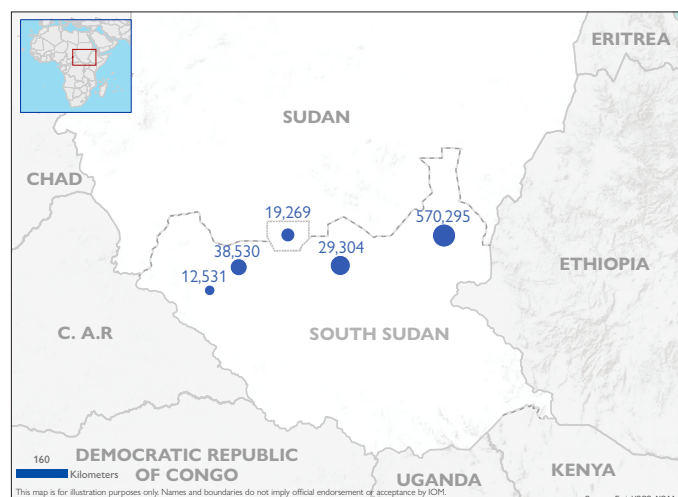
South Sudan represented the second largest recipient country of individuals fleeing Sudan, with approximately 53,000 individuals crossing the border each month. An estimated total of 634,202 individuals crossed the border to South Sudan between April 2023 and April 2024.

Unlike cross-border movement to other neighbouring countries, the majority of individuals (79%) crossing into South Sudan were non-Sudanese nationals. Most cross-border displacement into South Sudan reportedly consisted of South Sudanese nationals leaving Khartoum, White Nile and Aj Jazirah states.

Notably, the majority of border crossings (85%) were reported at the Joda/Wunthrow border crossing point, in Renk County (Upper Nile state of South Sudan) on the eastern side of the border. Given the large influx into Upper Nile state, most arrivals reportedly remained in bordering areas around the Joda-Renk corridor in South Sudan. The corridor faced severe challenges in terms of service provision due to limited space, increased demand on existing infrastructure, inadequate road access, and extreme rains and flooding throughout 2023. Field teams noted that overcrowding fuelled competition for resources and sparked community tensions, which reportedly triggered incidents of violence among displaced communities.

The Joda/Wunthrow entry point also represented the most direct arrival area to South Sudan for individuals fleeing from Khartoum. The proportion of Sudanese nationals arriving at the Upper Nile state increased, from approximately 6 per cent of the total arrivals between April and September 2023, to an estimated 40 per cent during January and April 2024. The increase likely reflected the geographical [expansion of the conflict](#) in Sudan in Aj Jazirah, Sennar, and White Nile states, which displaced many Sudanese nationals who had already been displaced within Sudan before being displaced across the border. The eastern part of the border in Upper Nile will likely remain the main crossing point in the upcoming months.

There were fewer reported crossings at other border points in Unity state and Bahr el-Ghazal, with an average of approximately 7,500 individuals per month between April 2023 and April 2024. Approximately 85 per cent were South Sudanese nationals, and

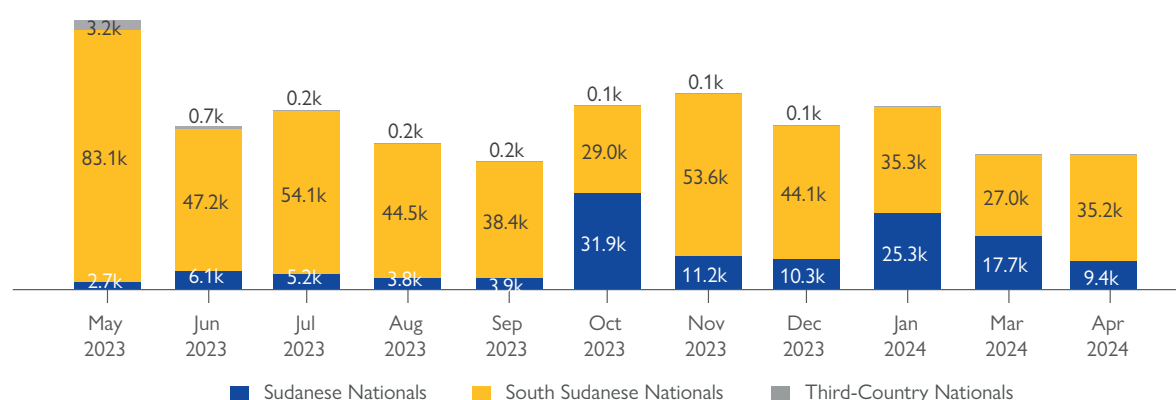


Map 2: Population Estimates for Cross-Border Displacement from Sudan to South Sudan, April 2023-April 2024

this proportion remained relatively consistent month-to-month. Individuals crossing at these border points reportedly came from diverse states of origin within Sudan, including Khartoum, as well as Kordofan and Darfur states. These cross-border movements reflected the evolution of conflict in Darfur and Kordofan regions: for example, the increase in reported arrivals to Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, South Sudan reflected the [increased clashes in Kordofan](#) throughout December 2023.

In terms of intended destinations of those crossing into South Sudan, approximately [72 per cent reportedly intended to return to their areas of origin](#), while 8 per cent intended to go to other areas within South Sudan. The remaining 20 per cent reportedly intended to remain in transit camps in the short term. Upper Nile state represented the preferred choice of destination among most South Sudanese nationals, although many also cited Unity, Central Equatoria, Bahr el-Ghazal as their intended destination.

The influx of displaced communities to South Sudan will likely continue to pose significant challenges given the high levels of humanitarian needs among both displaced individuals and host communities. Notably, many individuals crossing into South Sudan may not have familial connections or support networks in South Sudan: [only 39 per cent indicated](#) that their choice of intended destination was driven by the presence of family or relatives.



Graph 3: Cross-Border Movement from Sudan to South Sudan, April 2023 to April 2024

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT INTO EGYPT

Egypt received the third-highest influx of individuals displaced from Sudan. Cross-border displacement consisted primarily of Sudanese nationals from Khartoum arriving in urban areas in Egypt.

Specifically, Egypt represented the top displacement destination during the first two months of the conflict, particularly for residents of Khartoum who could rely on private transportation or access available buses. The vast majority of individuals arriving in Egypt (98%) were reportedly Sudanese nationals, while a minority were reportedly Egyptian or other foreign nationals, including South Sudanese, Eritrean, and Ethiopian nationals. Most individuals reportedly crossed into Egypt by land from two entry points in the Wadi Halfa locality of Northern State. However, the flow of cross-border movements decreased significantly after June 2023, reflecting the change in entry policy for Sudanese nationals.⁴

Wadi Halfa hosted approximately 50,000 Sudanese fleeing the conflict as of 02 April 2024, many of whom reportedly stayed in overcrowded sites in Halfa town while waiting to process their entry to Egypt. The continuous arrival of families fleeing Khartoum and other central states into Northern state will likely increase pressure on infrastructure and resources along the border. Many individuals who were displaced from Sudan reportedly lacked civil documentation and faced numerous barriers in obtaining documentation given the on-going insecurity. Overcrowding at the border also reportedly led to increased protection risks as individuals crossed the border through more dangerous routes, which led to several reported deaths.⁵

Displaced individuals stayed primarily in urban areas in Egypt, either in rented accommodation or with host families. Most displaced families stayed in Cairo and surrounding areas, as well as in Aswan in the south of Egypt, near the border. Displaced individuals in Aswan reportedly faced challenges with service provision due to increased demand and less aid provision compared to Cairo. Some service provision in Cairo was reportedly available through relief organisations, local community support networks, and mutual aid associations formed by other Sudanese nationals. Many displaced individuals faced challenges due to the cost of living and lack of services in Egypt. Many

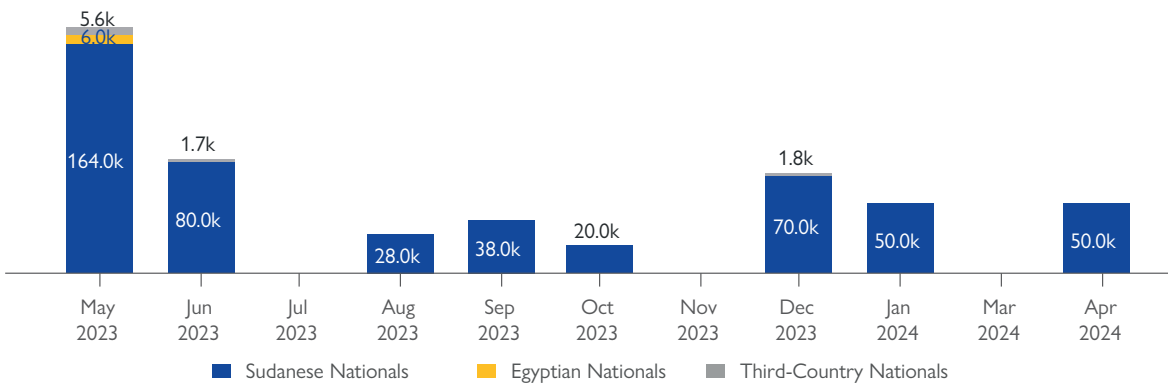


Map 3: Population Estimates for Cross-Border Displacement from Sudan to Egypt, April 2023-April 2024

displaced families were reportedly close to exhausting their remaining savings and faced challenges due to the lack of formal employment opportunities and increasing rent prices. Moreover, the ability of familial and social networks in Egypt to help new arrivals remained overstretched.

These challenges may influence the movement intentions of displaced individuals in Egypt in the upcoming months. Approximately [a third of Sudanese nationals](#) reportedly intended to return to Sudan as soon as security conditions improved, while others intended to either stay in Egypt, apply for resettlement to a third country, or migrate to Europe through Libya. Many displaced individuals may cross back into Sudan due to depleted resources: these movements could result in an increased population in Khartoum with little access to basic services and severe security risks.

There also may be an increase in irregular migration towards Europe through the Central Mediterranean route, as many third-country nationals displaced in Egypt were reportedly in Sudan with the intent to transit to Europe. DTM Europe recorded an estimated 7,066 irregular arrivals of Sudanese nationals in 2023, compared to 1,722 in 2022.



Graph 4: Cross-Border Movement from Sudan to Egypt, April 2023 to April 2024

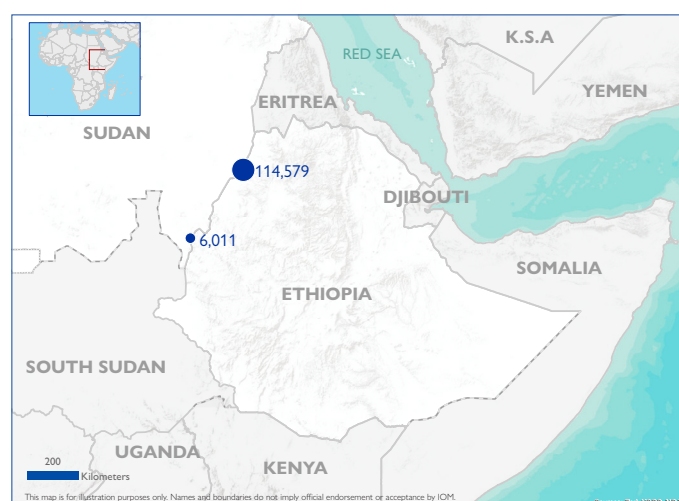
4. During the first months of the conflict in Sudan (April-June 2023), specific groups of Sudanese nationals were exempt from visa requirements for entering Egypt. Exempt groups reportedly included women, children under 16 years-old, and adults over 50 years-old. Beginning on 10 June 2023, all Sudanese nationals were required to obtain a visa in order to enter Egypt, regardless of age or gender. Visas can be obtained via Egyptian consular offices, either in Wadi Halfa or Port Sudan. For further information, see [My Life, My Plans, My Dreams are Falling Apart: Voices from the Sudan Conflict](#).
5. For further information, see [Middle East and North Africa: Migrants Deaths and Disappearances in 2023](#) and [Growing Migrant Deaths and Disappearances in Middle East and North Africa in 2023](#).

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT INTO ETHIOPIA

Of the estimated 120,486 individuals who arrived in Ethiopia from Sudan between April 2023 and April 2024, there were approximately 55,000 Sudanese nationals, 48,000 Ethiopian nationals, and 17,000 third-country nationals, many of whom likely intended to transit to other countries. Most reported cross-border movement into Ethiopia occurred during the first three months following the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, especially among Ethiopian and third-country nationals.

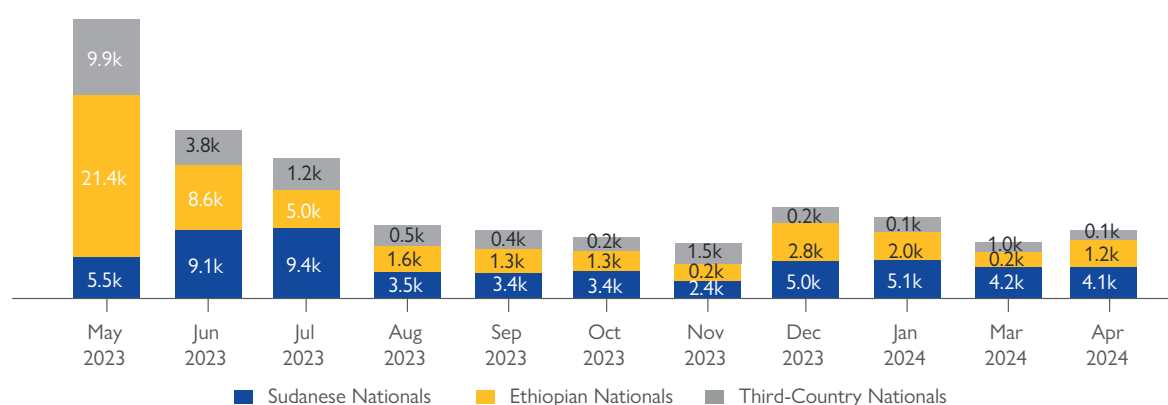
Approximately 82 per cent of total border crossings into Ethiopia were individuals originating from Khartoum. The vast majority of cross-border movements reportedly occurred at the Metema border point, between Gedaref state in Sudan and the Amhara region in Ethiopia. The Kurmuk border point between Blue Nile state in Sudan and the Benishangul-Gumuz region in Ethiopia represented another crossing point, but reportedly received only five per cent of cross-border movement between April 2023 and April 2024.

Compared to other neighbouring countries, there were fewer reported cross-border movements to Ethiopia, likely due to the fact that the eastern states of Sudan offered relatively-safe areas of displacement for individuals fleeing Khartoum. However, there was a reported increase of individuals from Gedaref, Aj Jazirah, and Blue Nile states arriving in Ethiopia during January



Map 4: Population Estimates for Cross-Border Displacement from Sudan to Ethiopia, April 2023-April 2024

and February 2024, likely reflecting the [expansion of conflict](#) to Aj Jazirah in mid-December 2023. The border region between Sudan and Ethiopia was also significantly affected by conflict, and renewed conflict across Amhara and Tigray regions in Ethiopia would potentially contributed to lower cross-border movement from Sudan.



Graph 5: Cross-Border Movement from Sudan to Ethiopia, April 2023 to April 2024

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT INTO CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

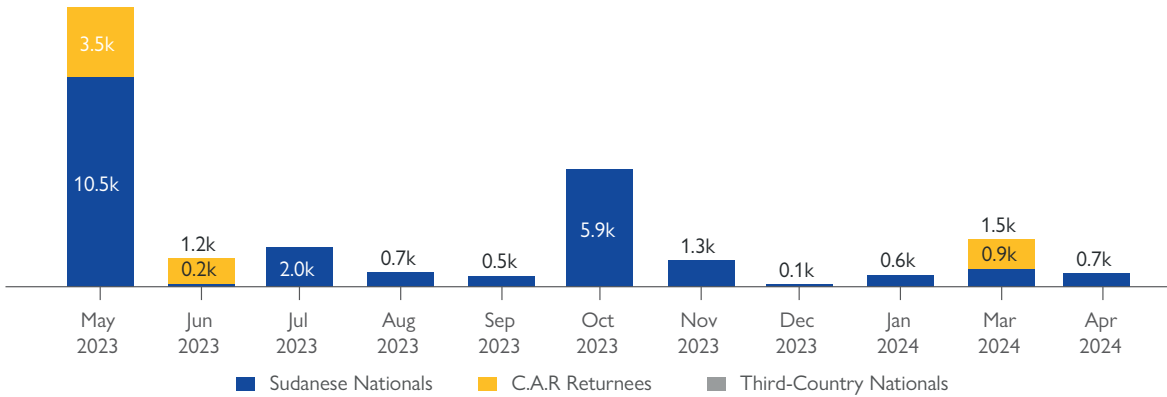
Relatively few Sudanese nationals (approximately 29,444 individuals) reportedly crossed from Sudan into the Central African Republic (CAR), likely due to insecurity across the border region. Most of the Sudanese nationals who crossed into C.A.R were reportedly displaced primarily from South Darfur state.

Most cross-border movement from Sudan to C.A.R reportedly occurred during April and May 2023, at the onset of the conflict, as well as in October 2023, following the escalation of conflict in Nyala locality, South Darfur.

Field teams noted dire protection risks for Sudanese nationals crossing from Sudan to C.A.R., especially for women and children. Field teams also noted the dire lack of humanitarian aid and service provision in the immediate border area. Many displaced families reportedly could not relocate to other areas due to on-going insecurity and limited transportation options due to floods, particularly during the rainy season.



Map 5: Population Estimates for Cross-Border Displacement from Sudan to C.A.R, April 2023-April 2024



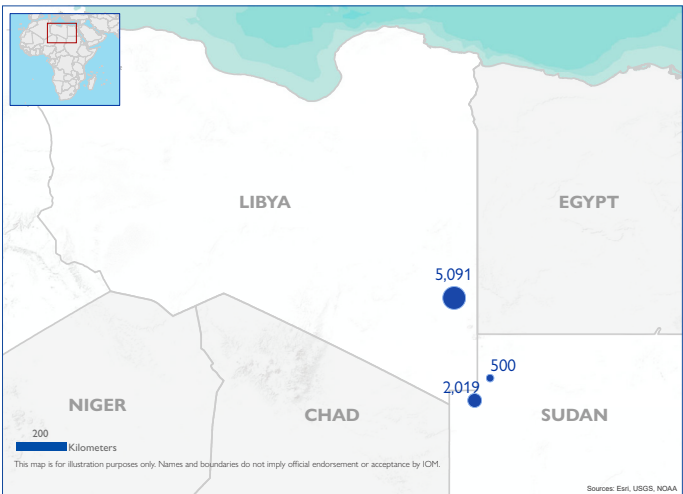
Graph 6: Cross-Border Movement from Sudan to C.A.R, April 2023 to April 2024

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT INTO LIBYA

Libya received the lowest number of recorded individuals displaced from Sudan. Between 15 April 2023 and 15 April 2024, slightly more than 8,000 individuals reportedly crossed into Libya. Of these individuals, approximately 5,300 transited through Al-Kufrah district, located at the border with North Darfur and Northern states in Sudan. The majority (86%) were reportedly Sudanese nationals, while approximately 14 per cent with either Libyan or other third-country nationals.

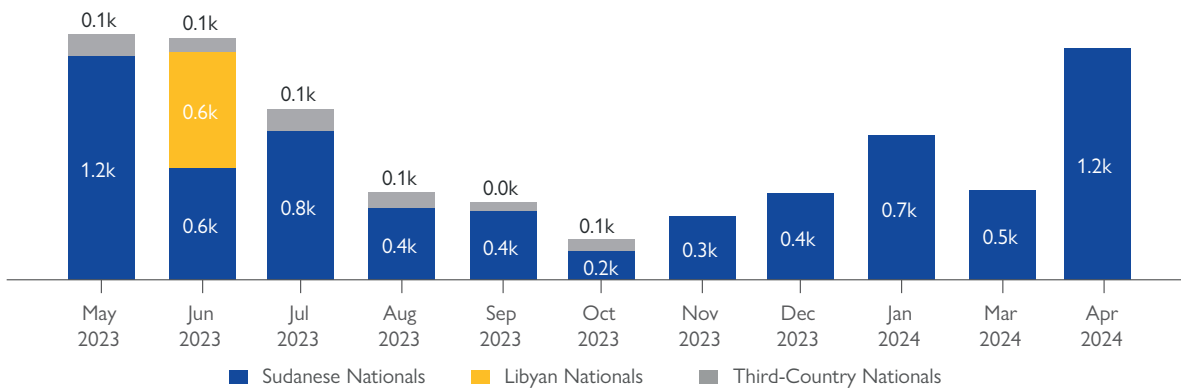
The total number of individuals displaced to Libya is likely significantly higher than the reported figure due to challenges in monitoring this route. Crossing through Libya represents one of the key irregular migration routes from East Africa towards the Mediterrean Sea and Europe. Irregular routes through Libya posed significant protection risks, including incidents of kidnapping, detention, and torture. Moreover, smuggling and trafficking networks were reportedly highly adaptable to shifting security dynamics, suggesting that the number of individuals fleeing to Libya likely increased following the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, despite the low reported figures.

Cross-border movements into Libya from Sudan may continue to increase in the upcoming weeks due to the [on-going insecurity across North Darfur](#).



Map 6: Population Estimates for Cross-Border Displacement from Sudan to Libya, April 2023-April 2024

Field teams also noted that many Sudanese nationals who are stranded along the border with Egypt or facing high living costs in Egypt may increasingly move towards Libya. While some Sudanese nationals may remain in Libya in the longer term since Libya already hosted a substantial population of Sudanese nationals prior to the conflict, others may increasingly attempt to migrate to third countries, especially Europe.



Graph 7: Cross-Border Movement from Sudan to Libya, April 2023 to April 2024

METHODOLOGY

This report was produced in partnership with [Social Inquiry](#). Data collection is based on DTM Flow Monitoring and Mobility Tracking methodology. For further information, see [DTM Methodological Note](#). Data collection on cross-border movement was collected through DTM field teams, partners, and national authorities. The report was also informed by data from various U.N. agencies and NGOs.

Displacement Data Sources:

1. Central African Republic: IOM, UNHCR, National Commission for Refugees
2. Chad: IOM, UNHCR
3. Egypt: Egypt Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. Ethiopia: IOM
5. Libya: IOM
6. South Sudan: IOM, UNHCR

For further information on Mixed Cross-Border Movement, see:

1. DTM Sudan: [One Year of Conflict: Visualizing the World's Largest Displacement Crisis](#)
2. [Population Movement from Sudan to the East and Horn of Africa Dashboard](#)
3. [DTM Chad Reports](#)
4. DTM Libya | [Profile of Sudanese Migrants in Libya \(March 2024\)](#)
5. [Population Movement Sudan to South Sudan Dashboard](#)

Disclaimer

DTM field teams currently rely on a combination of in-person and remote interviews with key informants due to on-going insecurity. Figures should be understood as preliminary estimates, subject to change pending further verification exercises.

Percentages throughout the report may not add to 100 per cent due to rounding.

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