

4th Meeting of the Development Partners Group on the Sudan Regional Refugee Crisis

April 23, 2026

Outcomes Document

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) convened the 4th regional meeting of the [Development Partners Group for the Sudan Regional Refugee Crisis](#) (DPG) on 23 April 2026. This regional DPG meeting follows the dedicated DPG meetings held on the responses in Chad (June 2025) and Sudan (September 2025). An estimated 200 people joined the virtual discussion.

The DPG was established in September 2024 to attract and highlight development support in response to the Sudan crisis. The regional DPG organizes two Senior Officials meetings a year, and *ad hoc* additional meetings.

Objectives of the meeting:

1. Take stock of development engagement in response to the Sudan regional refugee crisis at the 3-year mark of the conflict. Are we doing enough to leverage development financing in response to the crisis? How have members of the DPG adapted over the past three years and what are the lessons learned?
2. Facilitate regional-level information sharing on new projects and initiatives by development partners in Sudan and countries of asylum impacted by the crisis.
3. Introduce the new [interactive Sudan Crisis Regional Map](#) available on the Development Action Platform for the Sudan regional refugee crisis.
4. Provide a virtual networking opportunity to identify ways to work together more closely on the Sudan regional refugee crisis.

Key messages:

- **Three years into the conflict in Sudan, the crisis has evolved into a protracted, regional displacement emergency with profound humanitarian and development implications.** As of April 2026, 4.5 million Sudanese refugees are hosted across seven neighbouring countries—many of which were already under strain—alongside continued internal displacement and emerging return movements. Sudan has become the world's largest displacement crisis, with continued outflows into Chad, Egypt, South Sudan and beyond. In addition, an estimated 3.5 million people have returned to and within Sudan since 2025, requiring early recovery, services and livelihoods support in areas of return despite ongoing fighting elsewhere.
- **Development actors are increasingly complementing humanitarian response through large-scale, system-oriented investments.** In eastern Chad, development actors have

committed over USD 1.38 billion. The investments are scalable, including those by EU-INTPA and BMZ in water irrigation networks which have expanded the arable surface area, enabling refugee and host community self-reliance and local economic development. In Sudan, the World Bank portfolio of projects of USD 540 million, delivered through UN agencies and NGOs, is expected to hit USD 1 billion in the next 2 to 3 years. Investments span across social protection, education, health, energy, digital access and agriculture. In the Central African Republic, a new USD 52 million World Bank [adaptive social protection project](#) includes approximately 50,000 Sudanese refugees and host communities, strengthening resilience among vulnerable populations and their economic inclusion.

- **Development partners are adapting their programming based on the lessons learned since the start of the Sudan crisis.** Key reflections centered on the fact that development financing cannot wait for peace in Sudan. Livelihoods, human capital, food systems and basic services must be built during conflict to prevent state collapse and a lost generation. By way of example, the World Bank highlighted its commitment to supporting Sudan's food system development by stimulating small and medium enterprises in the food and agriculture sector. UNICEF underscored the importance of predictable multi-year HDP financing and programming given the size and diversity of Sudan and the fact that the frontlines of the conflict are shifting, underscoring the importance to work with state and local authorities to plan, budget and manage social sector financing to ensure services are available to the population. EU-INTPA noted the importance of investing in data, coordination and area-based programming to align humanitarian and development action and maintain sustained focus on human capital and education as the foundation for Sudan's eventual recovery. The UN in Egypt underscored the criticality of more innovative financing and concessional financing and nexus coordination to safeguard the nascent gains and deepen the collective interventions of the spillover impact of the Sudan crisis. UNDP highlighted its recent Sudan report, noting that nearly 7 million people fell into extreme poverty in a single year and warning that, without a shift in current trends, over 60% of the population could face extreme poverty by 2043. It stressed the need to prioritize high-impact locations, unlock larger-scale financing, and scale locally driven solutions.
- **DPG members welcomed the launch of a new Sudan Crisis Regional map on the Development Action Platform.** The map brings together a wide range of spatial data within a single interactive platform evidence-informed decision making. More is accessible here: [Launch of a New Interactive Sudan Crisis Regional Map | Sudan Regional Crisis - Development Action Platform](#).

Next steps:

- The next DPG meeting, to be scheduled in June 2026, will focus on climate financing going to the region impacted by the Sudan crisis.
- UN DCO and UNHCR will explore the possibility of organizing a DPG mission to a country impacted by the Sudan regional refugee crisis, in line with the recommendations of the DPG meeting in November 2025.

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23 April 2026

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) are convening a regional meeting of [Development Partners Group on the Sudan Regional Refugee Crisis](#). This is the 4th regional Development Partners Group (DPG) meeting, in addition to the three other regional meetings (September 2024, April 2025 and November 2025) and the dedicated virtual DPG meetings held on the responses in Chad (June 2025) and Sudan (September 2025).

What are the key objectives of this meeting?

- Take stock of development engagement in response to the Sudan regional crisis at the 3-year mark of the conflict. Are we doing enough to leverage development financing in response to the crisis? How have we adapted over the past three years and what lessons have we learned?
- Facilitate regional-level information sharing on new projects and initiatives by development partners in Sudan and countries of asylum impacted by the crisis.
- Introduce the new [interactive Sudan Crisis Regional Map](#) available on the Development Action Platform for the Sudan regional crisis.
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Agenda

14:00 – 14:10	Welcome remarks - Mr. Yacoub El Hillo, Regional Director for Africa, UN Development Coordination Office
14:10 – 14:15	New Product Showcased: Regional Integrated Spatial Map - Mr. Masud Rahman, Statistics and Data Analysis Officer, UNHCR
14:15 – 15:20	Panel Discussion: Taking Stock of Development Engagement at the 3-year mark of the Sudan Regional Crisis. Are we doing enough to leverage development financing in response to the crisis? What lessons have we learned along the way? - Ms. Elena Panova, UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt - Mr. Yoichiro Ishihara, Country Manager, Sudan, World Bank - Mr. Sheldon Yett, Representative, Sudan, UNICEF - Ms. Saffia Diop, Team Leader Horn of Africa, EU-INTPA Moderator: Mr. Mamadou Dian Balde, Regional Response Coordinator for the Sudan Situation and UNHCR Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa
15:20 – 15:30	Reflecting on Key Takeaways and Possible Next Steps - Ms. Agi Veres, Deputy Director a.i., UNDP Crisis Bureau - Mr. Yacoub El Hillo, Regional Director for Africa, DCO