



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

FOCUS ON KHARTOUM IOM SUDAN RESPONSE PLAN

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DAMAGED RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD IN BAHRI, KHARTOUM
APRIL 2025 IOM

2.1 MILLION

Expected Returnees to Khartoum in 2025¹

\$29,000,000

Funding Priorities ([Included in the Sudan Crisis Response Plan](#))

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Following the withdrawal of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) from significant parts of Khartoum beginning 25 March 2025, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) regained control of most of the capital. An IOM mission conducted on 1st April observed severe damage to essential infrastructure, lack of food and basic services, all significantly hindering the capacity to support large-scale population returns. Critical gaps exist in access to essential services such as food, healthcare, safe drinking water, sanitation, emergency shelter, and basic necessities.

Civilians who remained in Khartoum during the protracted fighting, predominantly vulnerable groups unable to evacuate - including elderly, persons with disabilities, and migrants caught in the crisis - continue to experience severe hardships. Many rely exclusively on informal networks of relatives and neighbors, lacking any stable access to income-generating opportunities or structured humanitarian assistance.

With RSF forces retreating, active combat in Khartoum city has substantially reduced, offering a measure of stability to streets that had been a war zone since April 2023 and potentially substantially improved humanitarian access. During the two-year conflict period, Khartoum faced prolonged siege conditions, severely restricting humanitarian convoys and isolating hundreds of thousands of civilians. Now, shifts in territorial control have opened up these areas allowing humanitarian access to those who remained behind, as well as the possibility of return for the estimated 5 million people that are displaced from Khartoum (urban and surrounding areas) and currently residing elsewhere in the country and abroad.

Sectors and Needs (USD)

(April - December 2025)

	Shelter and Non-Food Items Individuals targeted: 160,000	\$10,000,000
	Wash Individuals targeted: 150,000	\$5,000,000
	Health (Individuals targeted: 75,000)	\$6,000,000
	Early Recovery & Livelihoods Individuals targeted: 60,000	\$5,000,000
	Protection Individuals targeted: 40,000	\$2,000,000
	Data for Action 200 Enumerators (indirect support)	\$1,000,000



¹: Figure is based on return intentions of sampled beneficiaries and contingent on continued improvement of conditions particularly access for security, electricity, safe water, and schools.

However, even as access improves, unexploded ordnance and debris throughout Khartoum pose a lingering threat to civilians venturing back into battle-scarred districts. Given these challenges, it is more important than ever that an immediate response be mobilized to protect vulnerable civilians returning to these areas. Delayed action could leave returnees without essential services and hamper the scale-up of recovery efforts.

This newly accessible context provides the first opportunity in years for crisis-response actors like IOM to deploy rapid emergency assistance alongside targeted early recovery and livelihoods activities, helping to create conducive conditions for those who choose to return. Such dual interventions will not only alleviate immediate suffering but also help reduce long term dependency on humanitarian aid, thereby facilitating sustainable and dignified recovery.

IOM anticipates a significant surge of returnees in the following months. **IOM DTM initial estimates project more than 2.1 million people are expected to return to the capital by the end of the year from displacement sites within Sudan and neighboring countries**, driven by strong desires to reunite families, reclaim property, and rebuild livelihoods, despite uncertain housing and infrastructure conditions. This figure is based on early DTM projections, contingent upon the security situation and access to education, clean water, healthcare and food. Already, the signs of return are evident: buses from surrounding areas in River Nile State and Gedaref are reportedly filling with families headed back to Khartoum, and Sudanese abroad – for example in Egypt – have expressed intentions to come home now that the Eid holidays have concluded.

IOM has noted through multiple interviews with IDPs, **a strong and immediate interest to return home**, particularly given that many IDPs are living in poor and vulnerable conditions in their current locations. However, while large-scale spontaneous returns are likely to continue regardless of intervention, the conditions for safe and sustainable return are not yet in place. Without swift action, fragile systems risk further deterioration, leaving already conflict-affected and vulnerable populations unable to meet their basic needs.

In responding to these critical developments, **IOM is launching its response in Khartoum and is seeking urgent support to address severe service deficiencies, assist large-scale returns**, sustain communities that remained in Khartoum, and increase resilience and coping capacities for all impacted populations. IOM's multi-sectoral interventions aim both at providing immediate relief and laying foundations for long-term recovery, resilience, and community self-reliance. These efforts are fully aligned with the Sudan Inter-Cluster Coordination Group guidance on humanitarian interventions in return areas, and on working with government in return areas. They are anchored in robust engagement with national civil society to foster durable solutions and are aligned with the humanitarian-peace-development nexus—ensuring that short-term assistance contributes to sustained peace, inclusive development, and a more stable and resilient Sudan.

IOM ACCESS & CAPACITY

With returns already underway, IOM has proactively engaged with both federal and state government entities to secure access to affected areas, ensuring immediate response capabilities. Advance teams have been deployed to Khartoum state to conduct a rapid needs assessments, identify partners, coordinate with various government agencies, and begin early work. **IOM has initiated the process of re-establishing its Khartoum office** - the first UN office to be declared free of any threats of explosive remnants of war (ERW) by the National Mine Action Committee (NMAC).

IOM is a leading humanitarian actor in Sudan, with multi-sectoral expertise in managing complex, integrated programming across all key sectors. With the restored access to Khartoum, IOM is poised to rapidly scale-up operations and meet the urgent needs of affected populations in alignment with UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and UN Mine Action Survey (UNMAS) to ensure activities are conducted in a safe and secure manner for staff and beneficiaries.

IOM works through the UN system to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive response. As an active member of the various clusters, **including Health, Shelter, WASH, Protection, and Logistics**, IOM ensures all interventions align with agreed international humanitarian standards, avoid duplication, and effectively contribute to the broader objectives set out in the 2025 Humanitarian



DESTROYED BUILDINGS IN BAHRI, KHARTOUM - APRIL 2025 IOM

Response Plan, working in close coordination with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

IOM implements projects both directly and in collaboration with **local frontline NGOs, civil society organizations, and mutual aid groups, including the Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs)**. By leveraging IOM's technical expertise and scale, with the grassroots connections of local actors, IOM delivers stronger implementation, while building capacities of the national civil society, improving project sustainability and local ownership of projects.

IOM's response in Sudan is guided by a commitment to principled, inclusive, and context-sensitive programming. **IOM efforts are fully aligned with the Sudan Inter-Cluster Coordination Group guidance on humanitarian interventions in return areas**, and mainstream GBV, protection, PSEA and conflict sensitivity throughout all programming to ensure safe, effective, and responsive programming to the diverse needs of affected populations.





SHELTER AND ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIS)

IOM will rapidly procure and distribute critical non-food items (NFIs), including kitchen sets, blankets, solar lamps, bedding, and essential household items to vulnerable returnees and host communities. Priority will be given to localities within Khartoum that are experiencing significant population influxes, ensuring immediate and practical support for families returning under challenging conditions.

Additionally, IOM will support shelter solutions across a range of modalities from the rehabilitation of existing housing units, rental support, temporary lodgings or incremental shelter support, as well as support shelter solutions at reception centers and areas hosting newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs). Rehabilitation of shelter activities will also include **cash-for-work interventions** focused on supporting rehabilitation efforts and community infrastructure improvements, providing short-term income opportunities for local residents while supporting community recovery in high-need urban areas. These interventions will be guided by settlement approach planning principles and tools, focused on supporting rehabilitation efforts and community infrastructure improvements, providing short-term income opportunities for local residents while supporting community recovery in high-need urban areas. These activities aim to enhance social cohesion, stimulate the local economy, and promote a sense of dignity and shared responsibility among affected communities.

A key finding of the IOM mission was significant loss to electrical infrastructure. IOM will target installation of impactful solarization to reduce reliance on generators and establish longer-term energy solutions for beneficiaries.

As the designated operator of the NFI Common Pipeline in Sudan, IOM plays a critical role in streamlining and coordinating the procurement and distribution of essential non-food items. By managing this system, IOM ensures that relief efforts are aligned, preventing duplication and ensuring that aid reaches the most vulnerable populations in a timely and efficient manner. IOM's strong partnerships with established procurement channels and distribution networks allow for rapid response capabilities, maintaining humanitarian standards across the sector. This capacity to effectively coordinate the pipeline provides significant operational advantages in meeting urgent needs while supporting the broader humanitarian cluster efforts.

Funding required

\$10,000,000

Target # of individuals

160,000



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Prolonged conflict has severely disrupted Khartoum's water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure, creating acute public health risks, particularly around cholera and waterborne diseases. Immediate action is critical to support returning and conflict-affected communities.

IOM will rapidly provide emergency WASH assistance through water trucking, swift distribution of hygiene kits (containing soap, menstrual hygiene items, water containers and purification tablets) and urgent rehabilitation of damaged water sources such as boreholes, handpumps, and storage tanks as well as sewage infrastructure. IOM will also support the construction and repair of sex-separated lockable communal latrines and handwashing stations at gathering sites. Furthermore, hygiene promotion campaigns, led by trained community volunteers, will reinforce safe water practices and sanitation behaviors

In parallel, IOM will support **early recovery efforts** through community-managed sanitation initiatives and rehabilitation of which strengthens national systems enabling solid waste and vector control management and impactful solarization on water pumps and other key infrastructure to reduce reliance on generators. This approach comes following coordination with the government, given the scale of destruction of water supply systems which will take significant time to repair, while returns are coming immediately.

All interventions will be closely coordinated with the WASH sector and local community structures to enhance sustainability and community ownership.

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Funding required

\$5,000,000

Target # of individuals

150,000





EARLY RECOVERY AND LIVELIHOODS

In Khartoum, families impacted by conflict, including newly returning populations, urgently require opportunities to regain livelihoods and rebuild their lives with dignity. Income-generating activities are one of the fastest ways to eliminate vulnerability, reduce negative coping mechanisms, and prevent secondary displacement.

To meet this critical need, and in line with IOM's commitment to "solutions from the start", IOM will implement several early recovery and livelihoods projects, including "Cash-for-Work" initiatives focused on community-level cleaning, debris removal, and the rehabilitation and reconstruction of key community infrastructure, and other critical sites such as local markets and other commerce areas in newly accessible and heavily affected neighborhoods

Given the ongoing improvements of markets and re-establishment of businesses in areas of Omdurman, IOM will seek to pilot small grants which can promote re-establishment of business and livelihood activities in newly accessible areas of Khartoum. IOM hopes this pilot will set initial groundwork for IOM to transition into longer-term livelihood activities, such as the Enterprise Development Fund (EDF) – successfully implemented by IOM in six different countries – which can support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to revitalize key economic sectors in urban and peri-urban areas of Khartoum.

These activities will rapidly inject much-needed income into local economies, foster social cohesion by engaging diverse community members, and support essential infrastructure repairs. By laying the foundation for durable recovery, these interventions will help reduce long-term aid dependency and stimulate economic revitalization.

IOM's Early Recovery and Livelihoods strategy prioritizes localized, gender-sensitive programming, aligned with the principles of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, ensuring sustainable, inclusive recovery and community resilience.

Funding required

\$5,000,000

Target # of individuals

60,000



HEALTH

Two years of intense conflict have left Khartoum's health infrastructure severely damaged, significantly reducing access to essential medical care. Many facilities remain damaged, looted, or non-operational, creating critical gaps in primary healthcare services and exacerbating vulnerabilities.

IOM's health response will focus on **rapidly restoring and strengthening primary healthcare (PHC) services**, including the rehabilitation of damaged health facilities and the provision of essential medical consumables. **Mobile clinics will be deployed to deliver immediate healthcare**, including

treatment for acute illnesses, injuries, and infectious diseases, to vulnerable and newly accessible populations, particularly in areas where static healthcare facilities remain unfunctional. Furthermore, IOM will integrate mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities such as individual and group therapy, and referrals for specialized care and case management services into its health activities to provide support for trauma impacted individuals.

To address severe staffing shortages, IOM will offer targeted incentives to recruit and retain doctors, nurses, and essential medical personnel, to enhance capacity of local health systems. Disease surveillance will also be strengthened through support to the national Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS), ensuring rapid detection and response to outbreaks such as cholera, measles, and malaria. Public health education and community outreach will complement these efforts, promoting hygiene practices and disease prevention.

Funding required

\$6,000,000

Target # of individuals

75,000



DESTROYED HOSPITAL IN BAHRI, KHARTOUM - APRIL 2025 IOM



IOM will provide protection needs-based assistance that includes individual protection assistance, case management, and specialized services for **survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), child protection (CP), victims of trafficking**, persons with disabilities, older persons, single female-headed households, and individuals with chronic illnesses, including those newly arriving in Khartoum.

IOM will provide information and referrals to specialized services where functional pathways exist, or support the establishment of new pathways as needed, promoting an integrated protection approach to ensure cross-sectoral coordination and timely referrals in line with cluster standards. Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) due diligence will be mainstreamed to protect the rights of affected populations and expand access to documentation and legal support for vulnerable groups.

IOM will also establish **Women and Girls Safe Spaces** in key return and transit areas of Khartoum, providing confidential, survivor-centered support and access to case management, psychosocial services, information, and referrals in a secure and dignified environment.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) will be delivered through awareness sessions and risk prevention strategies, particularly targeting newly arrived families returning to highly contaminated neighborhoods.

Funding required

\$2,000,000

Target # of individuals

40,000



IOM will enhance humanitarian coordination and decision-making across development and policy areas leveraging its established strengths and expertise already in place through its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). With improved access across Khartoum state, DTM will expand data collection to capture granular information on returnees across seven localities in Khartoum, providing all humanitarian actors with bi-weekly reports and updated datasets on a location level. **IOM will continuously monitor main entry points into Khartoum State**, providing flow monitoring that will inform humanitarian partners of any surge in return movements so that needs can be anticipated.

Funding required

\$1,000,000

Added Enumerators

200

In response to a request from frontline NGO and INGO actors, **IOM will create a dedicated Khartoum Response Information Hub** available for all humanitarian actors as a common resource to see return trends, needs assessments, and recent activities carried out by various humanitarian actors in order to maximize impact and avoid duplication. This will support and enhance efforts by OCHA, clusters, and other groups to coordinate assistance. IOM will also create a separate portal for beneficiaries to be aware of assistance in their area for shelter, WASH, food, healthcare, and protection needs.

This will be enabled through inputs from different humanitarian actors and field-based enumerators strategically deployed to capture accurate, real-time data on displacement numbers, population movements, evolving needs, and trends. This granular information will ensure donors, humanitarian agencies, and key stakeholders are well-informed and can efficiently allocate resources, significantly improving the overall response capacity.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS IN BAHRI, KHARTOUM WITH IOM CHIEF OF MISSION - APRIL 2025 IOM

CONTACTS

SUDAN PSU TEAM
sudanpsuteam@iom.int

SUDAN COMMUNICATIONS TEAM
iomsudanmedia@iom.int

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
 FOR MIGRATION
 Port Sudan, Sudan
www.iom.int/crisis-sudan

