

KEY JUDGEMENTS JUNE 2023

Title: Sudan Emergency

Location: Sudan and surrounding countries

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INTRODUCTION

Since fighting broke out in April, one million people have been displaced, and over 250,000 people have fled Sudan to neighbouring countries. The majority have travelled to Egypt, Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan. These include Sudanese citizens, South Sudanese returnees, and third-country nationals, including Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees. The number of people fleeing Sudan is expected to increase eight-fold in the coming weeks and months. This displaced population will be at an increased risk of trafficking.

WE ASSESS AS FOLLOWS

RECRUITMENT

- a) Long-term refugee camps in Sudan and South Sudan are routinely infiltrated by traffickers who spot and groom victims who fit a person's requirements. Recruiters trick desperate people into taking a journey that becomes exploitation, for example by promising modelling jobs. This is mainly a risk for young women and children.
- b) People fleeing from Sudan, including Sudanese, Ethiopian and Eritrean nationals, are vulnerable to forced labour and sex trafficking due to desperate circumstances and a lack of resources and support organisations on the ground. Unaccompanied minors and people accepting the services of smugglers promising passage to Europe are particularly vulnerable.
- c) Eritrean refugees, many of whom cannot voluntarily repatriate due to persecution risk, are particularly vulnerable. Over 136,000 Eritrean refugees were residing in refugee camps to the south and east of Khartoum, in the states of Kassala, Gedaref and Aj Jazirah.
 - South Sudan has denied Eritreans entry and Egypt has a visa requirement for Eritreans. As this population often lacks documentation, they cross the border to Egypt irregularly.
 - There is a pre-existing kidnapping and extortion risk for Eritreans and Ethiopians in Sudan, Egypt, Chad and South Sudan. A 14-year-old Eritrean girl was recently taken by smugglers from Sudan to Juba in South Sudan and held for ransom.

RECRUITMENT CONT.

d) Refugees entering Egypt from Sudan irregularly are particularly at risk of trafficking, especially unaccompanied minors and single women. While Sudanese women and children can enter Egypt without a visa, this is not the case for other nationalities and Sudanese men and boys over 15. Eritrean, Ethiopian and Syrian populations are of particular concern. Risks include labour trafficking and sexual exploitation.

DEMAND

a) In South Sudan, adults and children from IDP camps are forcibly recruited into armed groups and militias for the purpose of fighting and forced labour. Men and boys are especially recruited to fight, while women and girls are especially recruited for domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and forced marriage. They are often deployed in the following states: Western Bahr El Ghazal, Central Equatoria, Unity and Upper Nile.

b) Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees in camps in Sudan and on smuggling routes in Egypt, Chad and Libya are highly vulnerable to kidnapping, sexual exploitation and extortion. Eritrean refugees have been handed over by Sudanese security personnel to traffickers who sell them to gangs in Sudan and in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

c) In Egypt, Sudanese and other East African populations have historically been exploited for forced labour in construction and agriculture, domestic servitude, and sex trafficking.

d) There are established trafficking routes in the region. Refugees accepting offers from smugglers promising travel to Europe are highly vulnerable to sexual exploitation, forced labour, kidnapping, and extortion, especially in refugee camps in Sudan, Egypt, and in Libya via Chad.

e) There are high rates of illegal organ trafficking in Egypt and Libya, and displaced people in desperate situations may accept offers to sell their organs.

MONEY (REVENUE)

a) The ransom for the Eritrean girl from Sudan to Juba, South Sudan, was 2,500 USD.

b) The going rate for ransom for Eritrean women and girls kidnapped and sexually abused in Sudan ranges between 2,500 and 15,000 USD.

c) In one reported incident prior to the current conflict, an abducted woman or girl in South Sudan was purchased for 750 USD.

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

1) Emerging risks of trafficking in the region

Contact Us: exploitationanalytics@stopthetraffik.org