

Sudan – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 10, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

47.9 MILLION Estimated Population of Sudan <i>UN – December 2021</i>	14.3 MILLION Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance <i>UN – December 2021</i>	3 MILLION Estimated Number of IDPs in Sudan <i>UN – August 2021</i>	2.6 MILLION Estimated Number of IDPs in the Darfur Region <i>UNHCR – July 2021</i>	354,000 Estimated Number of IDPs in the Two Areas <i>UN – December 2021</i>
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- Ongoing political unrest following the October 25 military takeover results in civilian deaths and injuries.
- An estimated 14.3 million people will require humanitarian assistance across Sudan in 2022, according to the 2022 Sudan HNO.
- Heightened conflict in West Darfur displaces approximately 10,000 people since mid-November, the UN reports.
- High levels of acute food insecurity will likely persist in Sudan through January 2022 despite the ongoing November-to-January harvest season, according to FEWS NET.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Sudan Response in FYs 2021–2022	USAID/BHA ¹	\$428,716,855
	State/PRM ²	\$111,895,900
	Total	\$540,612,755

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

¹USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Projected Humanitarian Needs Increase Amid Political Instability

An estimated 14.3 million people across Sudan—approximately 30 percent of the country’s population—will require humanitarian assistance in 2022 due primarily to disease outbreaks, flooding, the macroeconomic crisis, and insecurity, according to the 2022 Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) released on December 2. The figure represents an approximately 7 percent increase compared with 2021 estimates and constitutes the highest number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Sudan within the past decade. Approximately 7.5 million people—more than half of the total population in need of assistance—reside in five of Sudan’s 18 states: Central Darfur, Khartoum, North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur. Meanwhile, up to 9.8 million people identified with humanitarian needs may experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity in 2022, the UN projects.¹

Amid rising humanitarian needs, political unrest has significantly increased following the October 25 military takeover, during which members of the Sudanese Armed Forces removed the Civilian-Led Transitional Government (CLTG) and assumed control of the country. In the months since, thousands of Sudanese have participated in protests in Sudan’s capital city of Khartoum and other urban areas of the country demanding the return of civilian rule. Violence during this period had resulted in at least 44 deaths and hundreds of injuries as of December 6, according to international media. In response, health actors are providing emergency supplies to hospitals in Khartoum State to respond to increased medical needs, the UN reports.

Conflict in West Darfur Generates New Displacement

Since November 20, sedentary farmers and nomadic groups have engaged in a series of armed clashes in West Darfur’s Jebel Moon locality, which resulted in at least 50 deaths and an unknown number of injuries as of December 6, the UN reports. The fighting also damaged or destroyed more than 590 houses and displaced an estimated 10,000 people, including at least 2,260 refugees who had fled across the border to Chad as of November 30, according to State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Verification of displacement totals remains challenging due to limited humanitarian access and poor telecommunications coverage in the area. In addition, intercommunal violence has spread to other areas of West Darfur, including Kereneik locality, where heightened conflict had displaced an additional 15,500 people as of December 9, according to the UN.

Newly displaced populations seeking refuge from the ongoing armed clashes in Jebel Moon are facing significant protection risks and rising humanitarian needs. Fighting had separated at least 20 children from their families between mid- and late November, and relief actors have reported numerous incidents of gender-based violence amid the hostilities, according to UNHCR. Security conditions are also preventing local residents from accessing towns and key markets, restricting access to health care services and basic goods, the UN reports. In response, a UN interagency team distributed 2,000 dignity kits, 200 mosquito nets, emergency shelter supplies, and other relief commodities to affected populations and internally displaced persons (IDPs) during a November 29 to December 2 assessment mission to West Darfur. Relief actors—including USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners—continue to closely monitor conditions in the locality to mitigate risks to humanitarian aid workers operating in the area.

¹ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

Conflict, Political Turmoil, Port Blockade Drive Continued Food Insecurity

High levels of food insecurity will likely persist in Sudan through January 2022 despite the November-to-January harvest period, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). While seasonal food access and availability are projected to improve for most households during the harvest, overall household food security conditions will likely be below-average for the season. Above-average food prices and reduced purchasing power—driven by conflict, displacement, and economic disruptions related to political instability—are projected to continue resulting in Crisis levels of acute food insecurity in areas of South Kordofan, North Darfur, North Kordofan, Red Sea, and West Darfur states, as well as widespread Stressed—IPC 2—conditions throughout the rest of the country.

In addition to protests in Khartoum, relief actors have encountered difficulties importing humanitarian commodities through Red Sea State's Port Sudan city—where the country's primary seaports are located—due to a protracted blockade around the harbor's shipping terminal. From mid-September to October 31, Beja protesters blocked roads around Port Sudan in an attempt to pressure Sudanese authorities to annul provisions in the October 2020 Juba Peace Agreement, international media report. The resulting disruption to business activities around the harbor led to delays in the transportation of relief commodities and shortages of food, fuel, and medicine across the country. While commercial activities around the port gradually resumed in early November, Beja protesters have threatened to resume blockading the harbor if Sudanese authorities refuse to meet their political demands. Relief actors have expressed concern that another port closure would further disrupt the movement of critical humanitarian commodities, as well as reduce food supplies and further increase prices, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities facing low-income households.

Rising COVID-19 Caseloads Overwhelm Isolation Centers

Health actors in Sudan have recorded sharp increases in new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases since late November, with related hospitalizations and deaths similarly increasing as hospital workers report shortages of essential medical supplies, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Confirmed cases of the disease have risen particularly in Gezira, Khartoum, and River Nile states, with bed occupancy rates at public isolation centers exceeding 90 percent in the three states as of November 23. In addition to limited bed space at hospitals, WHO identified funding shortfalls, weak disease surveillance systems, and shortages of oxygen, essential medicine, and trained staff as key factors constraining health actors from managing rising COVID-19 caseloads. More than 44,400 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 3,206 deaths had been recorded in Sudan as of December 9, including more than 2,200 new cases and 97 deaths during the last two weeks of November, WHO reports. Moreover, less than 2.8 million people in Sudan—approximately 6 percent of the total population—had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose as of December 8. USAID/BHA continues to support COVID-19 screening, treatment referrals, and prevention services to populations facing elevated risk of virus-related complications in Sudan; however, heightened insecurity and limited access in many parts of the country have threatened service continuity.

Refugees Relocated to Improved Sites in Eastern Sudan

More than 50,000 Ethiopian refugees had fled conflict in northern Ethiopia to eastern Sudan as of October 31, UNHCR reports. As refugees fled across the border, many took refuge in locations such as Hamdayet Transit Center, located in Sudan's Gedaref State on the border with Ethiopia. As of November 22, UNHCR had resumed activities to move refugees to areas of Sudan with access to more essential services, relocating more than 2,250 refugees as of December 5. UNHCR continues to provide basic services and specialized support to refugees in eastern Sudan, including by issuing ID cards and

administering COVID-19 vaccinations.

KEY FIGURES



7.4 Million

People supported with emergency food assistance with USG and other donor support



\$37.6 Million

In dedicated FY 2021 USAID/BHA support for life-saving health care programming



\$34.9 Million

In dedicated FY 2021 USG support for WASH activities



1.2 Million

People supported with nutrition assistance with USG and other donor support

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN World Food Program (WFP), and three other partners to provide emergency food assistance to people experiencing acute food insecurity in Sudan, primarily through cash transfers for food and U.S., regionally, and locally sourced cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil. With U.S. Government (USG) and other donor support, WFP had reached approximately 7.4 million people in Sudan with humanitarian food assistance from January to September.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, UN Population Fund (UNFPA), WHO, and 13 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide life-saving health care across Sudan. USAID/BHA provides essential medicines, supports health facilities, and trains community health workers to support critical health needs, as well as COVID-19 response efforts. In addition, USAID/BHA NGO partners and State/PRM partners—including UNHCR—support essential health interventions for IDPs, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Sudan.

WASH

State/PRM and USAID/BHA support water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming throughout Sudan to prevent and contain communicable disease outbreaks, including COVID-19, and improve access to safe drinking water. State/PRM and USAID/BHA funding supports FAO, IFRC, IOM, UNICEF, WHO, and 15 NGO partners to provide emergency WASH support for conflict-affected populations, as well as hygiene awareness sessions and safe drinking water to additional populations in need.

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports 14 humanitarian partners on the forefront of efforts to prevent, identify, and treat acute malnutrition through the implementation of multi-sector integrated interventions, including the provision of nutritional supplements, as well as health, WASH, and agriculture and food security interventions. Nutritional programming supports community- and evidence-based management of malnutrition by focusing on children and pregnant and lactating women and supporting nutrition education. With support from the USG and other donors, WFP had provided nutrition support to more than 1.2 million people in 16 of Sudan's 18 states between January and September.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Ongoing conflict, protracted displacement, and climatic events in Sudan have disrupted livelihood activities and impeded access to natural resources and basic services. Fighting among the Sudanese Armed Forces, armed opposition groups, militias, and ethnic groups in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, Darfur, and Abyei Area has resulted in food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH needs. Sudan also experienced its worst flooding in more than 100 years between July and September 2020, affecting more than 875,000 people. Additionally, the ongoing economic crisis and the effects of COVID-19 containment measures have compounded humanitarian needs, while conflict and food insecurity in neighboring South Sudan continues to fuel an influx of South Sudanese refugees into Sudan, placing further constraints on government and host community resources. The UN estimates that 14.3 million people will require humanitarian assistance in Sudan in 2022.
- In April 2019, a civilian uprising grew out of protests against high prices for bread, fuel shortages, and other economic issues. On April 11, Sudanese military officials overthrew President Omar al-Bashir in support of a popular revolution. In August, a signed constitutional declaration laid out arrangements for a 39-month CLTG, with Abdalla Hamdok appointed as Prime Minister. Members of the Sudanese Armed Forces subsequently assumed control of the country on October 25, 2021, and arrested several senior CLTG officials, citing the need to restore the country’s stability amid infighting between civilian and military leaders. On November 21, Hamdok was reinstated as Prime Minister under a power-sharing agreement with acting head of state Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.
- Insecurity, access restrictions, limited funding, and bureaucratic impediments limit relief agencies’ ability to respond to humanitarian and recovery needs in Sudan. Despite humanitarian access improvements since 2016, particularly in Jebel Marra—a mountainous region encompassing parts of Central Darfur, North Darfur, and South Darfur states—relief agencies continue to face a challenging operational environment in Sudan.
- On October 4, 2021, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Brian Shukan renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Sudan for FY 2022. The U.S. Mission in Sudan has declared disasters due to the complex emergency annually since 1987.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Nutrition, WASH	Blue Nile, East Darfur, South Darfur, South Kordofan, West Kordofan	\$5,800,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers and Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP)	Countrywide	\$40,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$45,800,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$45,800,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
IPs	Agriculture; Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP); ERMS; Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications; MPCA; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Blue Nile, Central Darfur, East Darfur, Gedaref, Gezira, Khartoum, North Darfur, Northern, Red Sea, River Nile, Sennar, South Darfur, South Kordofan, West Darfur	\$69,719,095
FAO	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, WASH	Blue Nile, Central Darfur, Gedaref, Gezira, Kassala, Khartoum, Northern, Red Sea, Sennar, South Kordofan, West Darfur, West Kordofan	\$9,000,000
IFRC	Agriculture, DRRPP, ERMS, Health, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Blue Nile, Gezira, Khartoum, Nile, Northern, Red Sea, Sennar	\$1,674,670
IOM	Agriculture, DRRPP, ERMS, Health, HCIMA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$22,150,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$7,990,000
UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	HCIMA	Central Darfur, East Darfur, North Darfur, South Darfur, West Darfur	\$1,000,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Blue Nile, Central Darfur, North Darfur, South Darfur, West Darfur	\$1,300,080
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$17,606,285
UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)	Protection	Blue Nile, Central Darfur, East Darfur, North Darfur, South Darfur, South Kordofan, West Darfur	\$1,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance—136,670 Metric Tons of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$148,228,096
WFP	Agriculture; DRRPP; Food Assistance—LRIP; HCIMA; Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$91,068,400
WHO	HCIMA, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$8,540,000
	Program Support		\$140,229
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$382,916,855
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Multi-sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$8,175,000
IPs	Protection, ERMS	Countrywide	\$25,000
UNFPA	Multi-sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,055,900
UNHCR	Multi-sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$93,630,000
UNICEF	Multi-sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$6,010,000
WFP	Multi-sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$111,895,900
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$494,812,755

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of December 10, 2021.

² Total State/PRM funding includes assistance to refugees residing in Sudan, which is also reported in the USG South Sudan Complex Emergency Fact Sheet as part of the South Sudan regional response and the USG Northern Ethiopia Crisis Fact Sheet as part of the Northern Ethiopia regional response.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)