



# **Sudan –** Complex Emergency

APRIL 14, 2023

#### SITUATION AT A GLANCE

**49.7** MILLION

Estimated Population of Sudan

UN - November 2022

**15.8** 

Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance

UN - December 2022

3.7
MILLION

Estimated Number of IDPs in Sudan

UNHCR - July 2022

**3.1** 

Estimated Number of IDPs in the Darfur Region

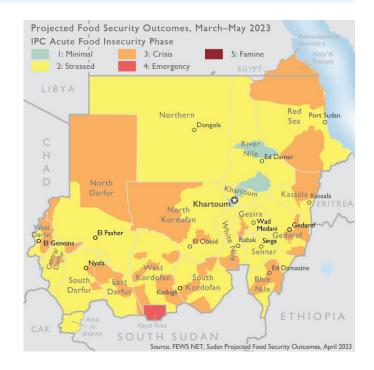
UNHCR - July 2022

MILLION

Estimated Number of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Sudan

UNHCR - February 2023

- USAID/BHA provided an additional \$144 million in humanitarian assistance in FY 2023 to address food insecurity and nutrition needs of nearly 1.8 million people in Sudan.
- Insecurity continues to threaten aid workers and civilians and delay the delivery of humanitarian assistance across Sudan, according to the media and UN agencies.
- The share of Sudan's population facing Crisis—IPC
   3—or worse food security conditions is expected to increase after the start of the lean season in April, FEWS NET reports.
- Fires have displaced nearly 4,780 people in 2023, while floods continue to exacerbate the spread of dengue fever across Sudan, UN agencies report.





USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

#### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

#### USAID/BHA Provided More Than \$144 Million for Humanitarian Assistance

In FY 2023, USAID/BHA provided more than \$144 million in additional humanitarian assistance to support the people of Sudan in meeting urgent food and nutrition needs. Through this funding, USAID/BHA has enabled its partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) to address food insecurity and nutrition needs of nearly 1.8 million people, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and other vulnerable groups in Sudan, as well as provide logistics support to reach people in the greatest need. In addition, USAID/BHA is supporting the transfer to WFP of approximately 720 metric tons (MT) of in-kind nutrition commodities, such as ready-to-use supplementary food, which is used to treat moderate acute wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—in children ages six months and older.

# Attacks on Aid Workers and Civilians Result in Deaths and Displacement

Ongoing conflict continues to threaten humanitarian aid workers across Sudan. On February 7, unknown armed actors attacked and seriously injured one staff member from the Generation Organization, a non-governmental organization (NGO), and one staff member from the National NGO Forum while the staff were on their way home from work in West Darfur State, local and international media report. In a separate incident on February 5 in Central Darfur State, unidentified armed actors hijacked a vehicle carrying multiple on-duty staff members of the local NGO Truth for Development Organization (TDO), resulting in serious injury to the vehicle's driver. The perpetrators returned the vehicle later that day. Following the hijacking, TDO suspended operations near the site of the attack until mid-February. In response, the Sudan NGO Forum and International NGO Forum jointly condemned these and other recent attacks on aid workers. The forums also urged relevant authorities to hold perpetrators accountable and stressed the need to increase aid worker protection to prevent delayed delivery of assistance to those most in need.

In addition to attacks on aid workers, ongoing conflict in Sudan has resulted in civilian deaths and displacement, exacerbating humanitarian needs. Most recently, on April 10, violence between Arab and Masalit tribes escalated in West Darfur's Foro Baranga locality leading to the deaths of two individuals, USAID/BHA partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. Since then, tribes have mobilized in the area and clashes are reportedly ongoing. On April 5, clashes erupted between pastoralists from South Kordofan State's Nuba communities, resulting in the death of at least one individual, injuries to six others, the destruction of 14 residences, and the displacement of affected households. Earlier, on March 23, violence between Arab Rezeigat and Marait members in West Darfur's Ag Geneina locality resulted in the deaths of six individuals, injury to eight others, and displaced an estimated 30,000 people—mostly children, older people, and women—across the border into Chad, according to IOM and local media. In response, the Government of Sudan (GoS) deployed joint security forces to the area to contain the situation, which remains tense but stable, with an estimated 5,000 previously displaced people returning from Chad as of April 4, IOM and the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports.

Meanwhile, security threats continue to impact humanitarian operations across Sudan since mid-March. For instance, USAID/BHA partner the UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) temporarily suspended all UN aid convoys traveling between Central Darfur's Golo and Nertiti towns following a security operation conducted by Sudanese Armed Forces and Sudan's Rapid Support Forces against an armed group in Gharb Jabal Marrah locality—a mountainous region encompassing parts of Central Darfur, North Darfur, and South Darfur states—in mid-March, according to the UN and UNDSS. The

temporary suspension delayed the delivery of assistance to approximately 200,000 people, including 48,000 IDPs, UNDSS reports. USAID/BHA and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) continue to monitor the situation.

## Conflict and High Prices Drive Food Assistance Needs Across Sudan

While household food security in Sudan continues to improve seasonally, supported by above-average cereal production in 2022, income from agricultural labor, and a relatively stable to declining trend in monthly cereal prices, the share of the population facing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse food security conditions is expected to increase notably after the start of the lean season in late April, especially in conflict-affected areas of Blue Nile, South Darfur, and West Kordofan states, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported in a March update.<sup>2</sup> The combined effects of displacement, ongoing armed conflict, and poor macroeconomic conditions—including high inflation and low household purchasing power—continue to drive atypically low food availability and access at the household level. Additionally, between five and 10 million people throughout Sudan are likely to experience Crisis levels of food insecurity from June to September, according to the FEWS NET March Food Assistance Outlook Brief.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Crop and Food Supply Assessment estimates that Sudan's 2022 cereal production was approximately 45 percent higher than 2021 and 13 percent above the country's five-year average. Favorable weather conditions and shifts in production from cash crops to less resource-intensive cereal crops supported this increase, FAO reports. However, the UN agency anticipates that 2023 cash crop production will be lower than both 2022 and the five-year average, due to limited access to agricultural financing, marketing and export difficulties, market volatility, and the shortage and high cost of agricultural inputs in 2022. Across Sudan, the high costs of agricultural production have undercut household income from crop sales and eroded the benefits of the above-average harvest for many households, driving the projected Crisis food security conditions in Sudan, according to FEWS NET.

### Fires and Floods Increase Needs, While Dengue Fever Continues to Spread

Twenty fire events were recorded across Sudan in March, compared to 31 fires in all of 2023, IOM reports. The fire incidents are of unknown origin and have displaced nearly 4,780 people to date in 2023, including an estimated 3,500 newly displaced individuals in March. Between March 30 and 31, multiple fires were reported in North Darfur's Al Lait town and Al Fasher and Um Baru localities, resulting in at least four deaths, more than 50 houses damaged or destroyed, and the loss of livestock. USAID/BHA continues to monitor humanitarian needs from multiple fires affecting several of Sudan's states. Meanwhile, heavy rains and subsequent flooding have exacerbated the transmission of vector-borne diseases, including dengue fever, among populations across Sudan. The GoS Ministry of Health (MoH) has recorded approximately 2,500 confirmed cases and 7,800 suspected cases of dengue fever between August 2022 and late March 2023, resulting in at least 44 deaths, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). On March 1, the GoS MoH declared a dengue fever epidemic in Khartoum State, which contains Sudan's capital. As cases continue to rise in the capital, health actors report critical shortages of medical supplies in local health facilities. USAID/BHA is supporting health partners, including NGOs and WHO, to implement outbreak control and response measures.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC I—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

#### **KEY FIGURES**

# 11.300

MT of food and nutrition assistance distributed by WFP with USAID/BHA support in February



5.6 Million

People who received medical and pharmaceutical supplies across Sudan through USAID/BHA partners UNICEF and WHO in 2022



Children ages five years and younger screened for acute malnutrition at USAID/BHA partner World Relief nutrition centers in February



Refugees and asylum seekers reached with access to safe drinking water in 2022 by State/PRM partner **UNHCR** 

### U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

#### **FOOD SECURITY**

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support multiple UN agencies and NGOs to bolster food security and livelihoods throughout Sudan. In partnership with USAID/BHA, WFP provides emergency food assistance to people experiencing acute food insecurity countrywide through cash transfers for food and U.S.-sourced and locally and regionally procured cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil. With USAID/BHA support, WFP assisted approximately 1.1 million people in Sudan with emergency food and nutrition assistance in February. In addition, USAID/BHA delivered approximately 45,000 MT of U.S.-sourced sorghum—procured through the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust—to Sudan in November 2022 to support WFP's response to critical food shortages in the country through April 2023. USAID/BHA partner FAO also provides agricultural inputs and training for smallholder farmers.

#### **HEALTH**

USAID/BHA and State/PRM supports IOM, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNHCR, WHO, and 13 NGOs to provide life-saving health care across Sudan. USAID/BHA partners provide essential medicines, support health facilities, and train implementing partners to support critical health needs, including coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response efforts. In addition, USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners—including UNFPA and UNICEF—support essential health interventions for IDPs, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Sudan.

#### NUTRITION

With USAID/BHA and State/PRM support, IOM, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and 14 NGOs prevent, identify, and treat wasting through the implementation of multi-sector integrated intervention approaches, including the provision of nutritional supplements, as well as agriculture, food security, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities. USAID/BHA-supported nutrition programming includes educational activities and malnutrition treatment focused on children and pregnant and lactating women. In March, with USAID/BHA support, UNICEF announced the arrival of more than 65,000 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic foods—a lifesaving nutrition commodity—to treat an estimated 65,000 children younger than five years of age with severe acute wasting in 2023.

#### **WASH**

USAID/BHA supports IOM, UNICEF, WHO, and 18 NGOs to provide emergency WASH assistance throughout Sudan. USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners—including UNHCR and UNICEF—assist in preventing and containing communicable disease outbreaks, including dengue and malaria. During Sudan's annual rainy seasons, usually between May and September, USAID/BHA partners support flood-affected populations with emergency

WASH supplies—such as chlorine, hygiene kits, soap, and water containers—to ensure access to safe drinking water. In addition, State/PRM and USAID/BHA partners have improved access to safe drinking water and provided hygiene awareness sessions to conflict-affected populations, as well as other populations in need. With State/PRM support, UNICEF upgraded water infrastructure to a solar-powered water system to benefit an estimated 5,000 individuals, including refugees and their livestock, in South Darfur's Um Dafoug locality in March.

#### **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 Abyei Administrative Area, Blue
  Nile, Darfur Region, and South Kordofan has resulted in increasing food, health, nutrition, protection,
  shelter, and WASH needs. Humanitarian needs have been compounded by the ongoing economic crisis
  and the impact of COVID-19 containment measures.
- In April 2019, a civilian uprising grew out of protests against fuel shortages, high prices for bread, and other economic issues. On April 11, Sudanese military officials overthrew President Omar al-Bashir in support of a popular revolution, and subsequent political uncertainty contributed to heightened humanitarian security and protection concerns. In August, a signed constitutional declaration laid out arrangements for a civilian-led transitional government for a 39-month period, with Abdalla Hamdok appointed as Prime Minister. However, following political unrest, the military took over the government on October 25, 2021, arresting civilian leadership. On November 21, Hamdok was reinstated as Prime Minister under a power-sharing agreement with military leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan but thereafter resigned on January 2, 2022. The October 25 military takeover sparked widespread protests across the country. Military leaders and representatives of civilian pro-democracy parties subsequently signed a preliminary agreement to establish a two-year transitional civilian government on December 5, 2022.
- On October 6, 2022, U.S. Ambassador John T. Godfrey reissued a declaration of humanitarian need in Sudan for FY 2023. The U.S. Mission in Sudan has issued disaster declarations or declarations of humanitarian need due to the complex emergency in Sudan annually since 1987.
- The UN estimates that 15.8 million people will require humanitarian assistance in Sudan in 2023. Access restrictions, bureaucratic impediments, insecurity, and limited funding hinder relief agencies' ability to respond to humanitarian and recovery needs in Sudan. Despite humanitarian access improvements since 2016, particularly in Jabal Marrah, relief agencies continue to face a challenging operational environment in Sudan.

#### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 20233

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination, Information, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
UNDSS	HCIMA	Central Darfur, East Darfur, Gedaref, Khartoum, North Darfur, South Darfur, South Kordofan, West Darfur, West Kordofan, White Nile	\$600,000
	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$7,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance-U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$107,994,174
	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers for Food, Local and Regional Procurement, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$32,696,000
	Program Support		\$141,127
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$159,431,301
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$159,431,301

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced FY 2023 funding that has been committed or obligated as of April 14, 2023.

#### **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.
- 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
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work