

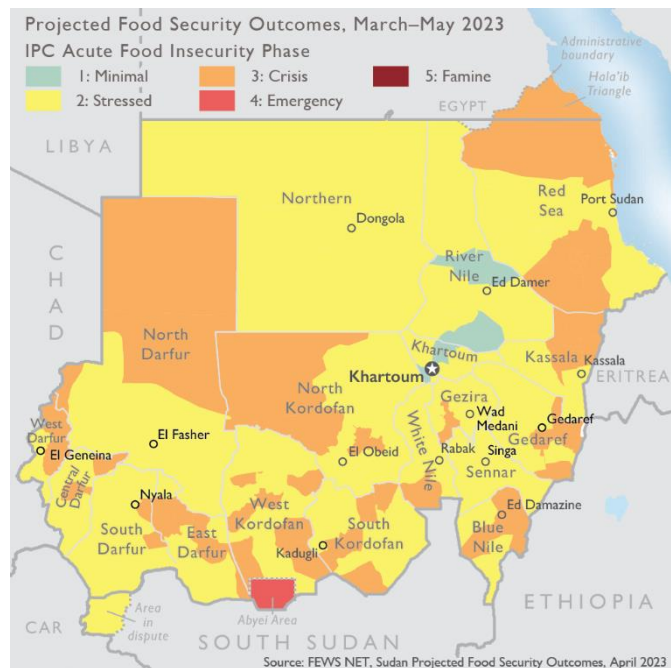
# Sudan – Complex Emergency

MAY 5, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Clashes between the RSF and SAF persist in Sudan, particularly in and around Khartoum and in Darfur and Kordofan regions. The two parties to the conflict announced a seven-day ceasefire beginning May 4 and have agreed in principle to peace talks.
- Continued fighting has led to widespread shortages of essential items and limited access to services, exacerbating food, health, and other humanitarian needs.
- While many aid actors have partially or completely suspended humanitarian activities in Sudan, WFP announced on May 1 that it would immediately resume operations in the country. Relief actors are also aiding individuals displaced from Sudan to neighboring countries.



## TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Sudan Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA<sup>1</sup> \$162,511,131

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

**Total \$162,511,131**

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **RSF–SAF Clashes Continue Despite Truce Efforts; Confirmed Death Toll Exceeds 500**

Since April 15, clashes between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)—a paramilitary force—and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have led to widespread civilian casualties, mass displacement, and humanitarian needs across Sudan, particularly in and around Sudan’s capital city of Khartoum and in Darfur and Kordofan regions.<sup>2</sup> As of May 2, the Government of Sudan (GoS) reported that the fighting had resulted in the deaths of at least 528 people and injury to at least 4,926 others, while disruptions to critical services have likely resulted in additional deaths. Clashes have been most intense in Khartoum and nearby Bahri and Omdurman cities, including attacks on hospitals and other civilian targets, the UN reports. Relief actors also report widespread looting of civilian property and the armed occupation of civilian houses and other buildings.

In parts of Darfur and Kordofan, including West Sudan’s capital city of El Geneina, RSF–SAF clashes escalated into larger armed conflict between ethnic Arab and Masalit communities. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Médecins Sans Frontières, fighting in El Geneina has resulted in attacks on the city’s hospital and densely populated civilian neighborhoods, including an internally displaced person (IDP) camp. The UN reported that 96 people were killed in the El Geneina clashes as of May 2, although a truce between community groups signed on the same day resulted in a reprieve from heavy fighting. In North Darfur’s capital city of El Fasher, there was a marked reduction in fighting following a civilian-brokered truce announced on April 20; however, intercommunal tensions remained high, according to local media. Elsewhere in Darfur, international media and relief actors have reported widespread looting in South Darfur’s capital city of Nyala, although active fighting between the RSF and SAF lessened in the region in late April.

While both parties to the conflict have agreed to several temporary ceasefires, none have been fully upheld and fighting has continued since April 15, according to international media. On May 2, the RSF and SAF agreed to a seven-day pause in hostilities beginning on May 4, brokered by the Government of South Sudan. RSF and SAF leadership have also agreed in principle to participate in peace talks, although the location and other details have yet to be determined, international media report. Despite the ceasefire, heavy fighting continued in Khartoum on May 4 and 5, with the RSF and SAF actors reportedly attempting to secure more territory in the capital ahead of prospective negotiations.

### **WFP Resumes Operations Following Two-Week Pause as Conflict Drives Elevated Needs**

In addition to the civilian casualties resulting directly from the fighting, continued hostilities have exacerbated health, food, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and other needs in Sudan, where an estimated 15.8 million people—or approximately one-third of the population—required humanitarian assistance as of December 2022, according to the UN. Approximately two-thirds of hospitals across Sudan are no longer functioning due to direct attacks on or the military occupation of facilities; a lack of consistent access to electricity, fuel, and water; and a lack of medicines, blood bags, surgical equipment, and other essential supplies, among other factors, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports. The Sudan Doctors Trade Union recently reported that many health facilities that remain open are only able to carry out limited activities due to supply shortages. Additionally, WHO estimates that looting and the destruction of cold chain equipment has compromised one-half of Sudan’s national stock of

<sup>2</sup> Darfur Region comprises the following states: Central Darfur, East Darfur, North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur. Kordofan Region comprises the following states: North Kordofan, South Kordofan, and West Kordofan.

vaccines. The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) also reports that fighting has severely disrupted access to safe drinking water and fuel.

According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), the conflict has caused a rapid deterioration of food security conditions in Sudan, particularly in urban centers and across Darfur. Fighting has severely disrupted trade and markets and the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance, exacerbating a food emergency caused by insecurity and poor macroeconomic conditions. As of late April, markets in El Geneina and Khartoum that remained open were reportedly experiencing significantly elevated prices and supply shortages. Although fighting has primarily been concentrated in urban areas and along key supply corridors to date, FEWS NET projects that trade disruption and price increases in rural areas, as well as the disruption of emergency food assistance, will result in an increased number of people experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the June-to-September 2023 lean season, with Emergency—IPC 4—conditions prevalent across much of Darfur and Kordofan and in parts of Al Jazirah, Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, Red Sea, and White Nile states.<sup>3</sup> In March, prior to the outbreak of conflict, FEWS NET estimated that as many as 10 million people would experience Crisis or worse conditions between March and September.

Humanitarian organizations have limited or suspended their programming in Sudan due to active fighting, supply shortages, and the closure of the country’s borders, according to international media. Many humanitarian facilities in Sudan have reportedly been looted or destroyed, resulting in the loss of essential supplies. However, on May 1, UN World Food Program (WFP) Executive Director Cindy McCain announced that the agency would resume operations in Sudan after suspending all activities in response to an April 15 attack in North Darfur that resulted in the deaths of three WFP staff members. WFP stated that it would begin distributing food assistance in Al Jazirah, Gedaref, Kassala, and White Nile in the coming days. Meanwhile, humanitarian access remains limited or nonexistent in conflict-affected areas of Darfur, Khartoum, and Kordofan.

### **Relief Actors Support Refugees and Returnees Along Sudan’s Borders Amid Widespread Displacement**

IOM estimates that 334,000 people were internally displaced by the conflict in Sudan between April 15 and May 1. New internal displacement recorded during the second half of April was higher than the total recorded in all of 2022, with 14 of Sudan’s 18 states hosting IDPs. While IOM estimates that Darfur hosts the largest proportion of individuals internally displaced by the ongoing conflict in Sudan, nearly 65,000 people were estimated to have been displaced in Khartoum State as of May 1, with the majority fleeing to surrounding states or to less insecure areas of eastern Sudan. Additionally, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that more than 114,000 people had fled Sudan to seek shelter in neighboring countries as of May 4. Of the total, approximately 47,000 people crossed into Egypt, 34,874 into South Sudan, 30,000 into Chad, 10,000 into Central African Republic (CAR), and 8,900 into Ethiopia. The large number of people crossing into Egypt has reportedly overwhelmed available services at border entry points, according to international media, and the UN is working to provide assistance to new arrivals in Egypt through the Egyptian Red Crescent Society. Meanwhile, the majority of those entering South Sudan during the second half of April were South Sudanese nationals returning to their country of origin. At Sudan–South Sudan border crossing in Renk town in South

<sup>3</sup> 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 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

Sudan's Upper Nile State, which has received the country's highest proportion of refugees and returnees from Sudan, a high-level Government of South Sudan and UN visit in May found overcrowding at reception areas and limited options for onward transport to other areas of South Sudan. In Ethiopia, IOM and UNHCR are working with the Government of Ethiopia to register and support new arrivals in Amhara Region's Metema town and Benishangul Gumuz Region's Kurmuk town, both located along the border with Sudan. UNHCR warns that displacement from Sudan is likely to accelerate in the coming months should the conflict continue to worsen.

While the delivery of humanitarian aid within Sudan itself remains limited due to insecurity and obstructed access, relief actors—including State/PRM and USAID/BHA partners—are mobilizing resources and staff to assist refugees and returnees crossing into neighboring countries. State/PRM partner UNHCR reports that it has pre-registered and assisted 22,000 new arrivals in the region. In Chad, U.S. Government (USG) partners and other relief actors already supporting refugees in the country are providing food, health, protection, WASH, and other essential services. USAID/BHA partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is conducting medical screenings for new arrivals—screening more than 240 people in Koufroun town as of May 2—and State/PRM partner UNHCR has begun providing water trucking services in collaboration with the Government of Chad.

In South Sudan, USAID/BHA partner the International Medical Corps (IMC) deployed a mobile clinic to Renk, providing gender-based violence (GBV) awareness, health, and nutrition services to nearly 340 people as of May 1. The non-governmental organization (NGO) is also providing health, nutrition, and protection services to refugees and returnees from Sudan sheltering in CAR's neighboring Haute-Kotto and Vakaga prefectures and had provided 388 primary health consultations and supported 92 women and girls with reproductive health services as of May 1. In Ethiopia, a State/PRM partner has provided 6,000 water bottles, 30 tarpaulins for shade, and 1,500 high-energy biscuits to new arrivals from Sudan.

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## 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

## 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 metric tons (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 the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) also provides agricultural inputs and training for smallholder farmers.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support IOM, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNHCR, UNICEF, 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.



**9,700**

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

## **NUTRITION**

With USAID/BHA and State/PRM support, IOM, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and 14 NGOs prevent, identify, and treat wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—through the implementation of multi-sector integrated intervention approaches, including the provision of nutritional supplements, as well as agriculture, food security, health, and 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 food—a life-saving nutrition commodity—to treat wasting in an estimated 65,000 children ages five years and younger in 2023.



**692,000**

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

## **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 SAF, 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, which have been compounded by the ongoing economic crisis.
- In April 2019, a civilian uprising grew out of protests against fuel shortages, high prices for bread, and other economic issues. On April 11, 2019, 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 SAF 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.
- Fighting between RSF and SAF elements across Sudan began on April 15, 2023, significantly escalating the humanitarian crisis in the country. On April 23, USAID/BHA activated a Nairobi, Kenya-based Disaster Assistance Response Team and Washington-based Response Management Team to coordinate the USG response to escalating needs.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$8,000,000

UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS)	HCIMA	Central Darfur, East Darfur, Gedaref, Khartoum, North Darfur, South Darfur, South Kordofan, West Darfur, West Kordofan, White Nile	\$600,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Blue Nile, Central Darfur, North Darfur, South Darfur, South Kordofan, West Darfur	\$3,000,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$7,000,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$107,994,174
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$32,696,000
	Program Support		\$220,957
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$162,511,131</b>

<sup>3</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect funding that has been committed or obligated as of April 26, 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](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)