

# Sudan – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

**5,006**

Deaths Caused by Ongoing Conflict in Sudan Since April 15

*ACLED – August 4, 2023*

**24.7 MILLION**

Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance

*UN – May 2023*

**3.8 MILLION**

People Internally Displaced Since April 15, 2023

*IOM – August 26, 2023*

**737,842**

Sudanese Refugees and Asylum Seekers Displaced Since April 15, 2023

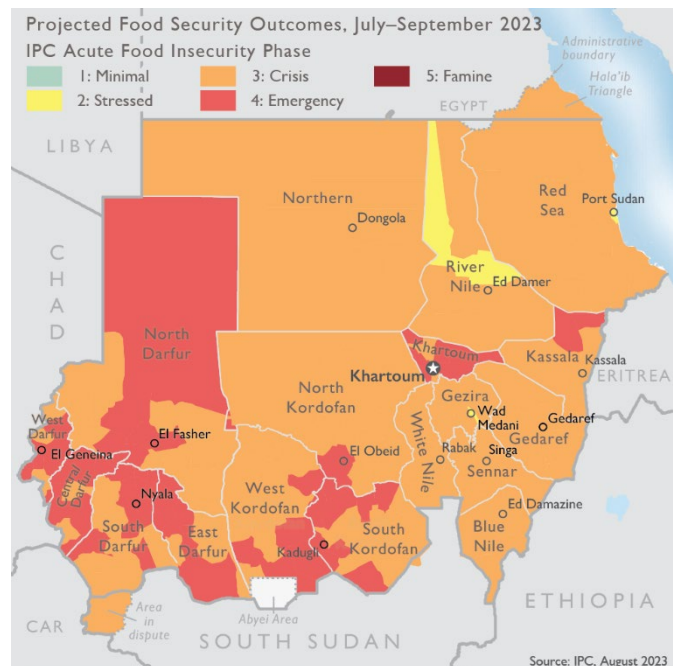
*UNHCR – August 28, 2023*

**225,070**

Refugee Returnees Displaced Since April 15, 2023

*UNHCR – August 28, 2023*

- Ongoing RSF–SAF clashes in Nyala since August 11 have displaced approximately 50,000 people, trapped tens of thousands of other civilians in the city, and hindered the delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- RSF–SAF clashes in El Shajara, Khartoum remained ongoing as of August 23, with increased reports of child protection violations.
- SAF General departed Khartoum for the first time since April 15, reportedly visiting two military bases and regional countries.
- Since April 15, the RSF–SAF conflict and resultant insecurity has displaced nearly 4.8 million individuals within and from Sudan, according to IOM and UNHCR.



### TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Sudan Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA<sup>1</sup> \$355,500,358

State/PRM<sup>2</sup> \$191,640,000

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

**Total \$547,140,358**

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

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Escalating SAF–RSF Clashes in Nyala Displaces Thousands of Civilians

Intermittent armed conflict between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) intensified in South Darfur State’s capital city of Nyala since August 11, trapping tens of thousands of civilians in the city and hindering the delivery of humanitarian assistance, according to an August 24 Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) press release. The UN estimated that the RSF–SAF fighting had resulted in at least 300 civilian casualties, including at least 60 deaths and approximately 250 injuries, and displaced an estimated 50,000 individuals in Nyala during the first six days of fighting between August 11 and 17. Further clashes on August 23 resulted in the deaths of at least 27 civilians, primarily women and children, MSF reports. Health actors in the city are reportedly exhausting available medical supplies and having difficulty treating the rapid influx of wounded patients due to staffing and resource constraints, relief actors report. The second nearest hospital in the area—located more than 55 miles northwest of Nyala—is currently under armed group control, further limiting civilians’ access to life-saving health services. The heightened conflict has also delayed the movement of several trucks carrying humanitarian supplies destined for South Darfur, including health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) commodities. The convoys remained stalled in East Darfur and North Darfur as of August 22 and 24, respectively, according to relief actors. Continued delays may jeopardize the convoys’ movements if the roads become impassable due to heavy rainfall as Sudan’s June-to-September rainy season persists. Meanwhile, severe damage to the area’s communications, electricity, and water infrastructure has affected communities in and around Nyala and impeded humanitarian organizations’ ability to communicate with staff and gather information. In response to the renewed clashes, the U.S. Department of State released a statement on August 17 urging the warring parties to cease fighting and comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including those related to the protection of civilians.

### RSF–SAF Clashes in Khartoum Exacerbate Child Protection Concerns

Escalating RSF–SAF clashes in Khartoum State’s El Shajara area between August 21 and 29 exacerbated child protection concerns among relief actors and prompted an unknown number of individuals to flee to other localities in southern Khartoum and neighboring White Nile State, according to national media. While neither of the warring parties had definitive control of El Shajara as of August 31, RSF’s incursion in the locality has threatened one of SAF’s last remaining strongholds in Khartoum, where its forces store ammunition and armored vehicles, the media reports. Health workers at the MSF-supported Bashair Hospital provided emergency medical care to more than 200 individuals injured during the fighting from August 20 to 21, according to the INGO. The Darfur Bar Association reported that children—some as young as 14 years of age—were seen wearing RSF uniforms during the military operations and noted the presence of child soldiers at SAF military posts, according to national media. International humanitarian and human rights law prohibit the recruitment of children into armed groups, considering the act a war crime and violation of children’s rights.

### SAF General Burhan Departs the City for the First Time Since April 15

On August 24, amid the increased fighting in Khartoum, SAF General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan departed the city for the first time since April 15, according to national media. General Burhan reportedly visited two SAF bases in northern Khartoum and River Nile State and subsequently traveled to Red Sea State’s Port Sudan city—where he asserted that the SAF will defeat the RSF and that fighting will persist until this victory—on August 25, the media reports. General Burhan also met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Egypt’s El Alamein town on August 29 to discuss efforts to end the conflict in Sudan and facilitate the flow of goods

and people between Egypt and Sudan, the first stop of the general's anticipated regional travels, according to international media. General Burhan's declarations about the need for a SAF victory over RSF coincided with an August 25 statement from UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Martin Griffiths, who condemned the conflict in Sudan and warned of the adverse humanitarian consequences. Separately, U.S. Ambassador to Sudan John Godfrey called for both parties to the conflict to end fighting and transfer power to civilians on August 25, stating that neither party was fit to govern; the Sudanese Foreign Ministry condemned the statement shortly after, according to national media.

### **Conflict Displaces Nearly 4.8 Million Individuals Since April 15**

Since the eruption of militarized conflict on April 15, clashes and resultant insecurity across Sudan has displaced nearly 4.8 million people within and from Sudan according to International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Of these, more than 3.8 million people are internally displaced across all 18 of Sudan's states, with nearly 50 percent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) sheltering in East Darfur, Northern, River Nile, Sennar, and South Darfur states, according to the UN.

Approximately 963,000 individuals had fled the conflict into neighboring countries—primarily Chad, Egypt, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Central Africa Republic (CAR), and Libya—as of August 28, UNHCR reports. Displaced households from Sudan reported facing difficulties traveling to reach safety in neighboring countries, with approximately 80 percent and 60 percent of those assessed in CAR and Chad, respectively, reportedly facing bribery or extortion along their journeys, according to a recent INGO survey of approximately 1,200 externally displaced households. Similarly, more than half of assessed displaced households in South Sudan reported experiencing looting of property. Surveyed households cited safe drinking water, shelter, and other relief items as priority needs. Relief actors, including USG partners, continue to provide multi-sector assistance to IDP populations displaced by the conflict in Sudan. As of mid-August, State/PRM partner UNHCR and its partner organizations distributed hot meals to nearly 181,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad and relocated more than 139,000 individuals to seven existing displacement camps to receive basic necessities. Since the beginning of the crisis, UNHCR has provided a one-off emergency cash assistance stipend to nearly 15,700 newly arrived households in Egypt's Alexandria, Aswan, Cairo, and Damietta cities as of August 22.

### **Hunger and Malnutrition Contribute to 498 Child Deaths Amid Lack of Health and Nutrition Services**

At least 498 children have reportedly died from hunger, malnutrition, and associated illnesses since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, with approximately 316 deaths occurring in White Nile State alone during May and July, according to an August 22 press release from Save the Children Federation (SCF). Continuing conflict has disrupted health services, resulting in diminished quality of care and contributing to the uptick in acute malnutrition rates. Insecurity has forced SCF to close nearly 60 nutrition facilities; the international non-governmental organization (INGO) is now reserving its buffer stock of emergency supplies for the most extreme cases of malnutrition in its remaining approximately 110 facilities. A health worker from a children's hospital in Gedaref State reported that the death rate from malnutrition and malnutrition-related complications in children ages five years and younger was 20 percent at the hospital, according to the SCF press release.

## KEY FIGURES



**1.8 Million**

People reached with WFP food assistance between its resumption of activities in May and mid-August



**12,000**

Women and girls reached with dignity kits and information about GBV services between April 15 and August 11 by USG partner UNFPA



**200 MT**

Of emergency health supplies delivered by USG partner WHO



**2.6 Million**

Children screened for malnutrition by USG partner UNICEF since April 15.

## 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, the UN World Food Program (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. The UN agency reached an estimated 1.8 million people across Sudan between its resumption of activities in early May and mid-August with support from USAID/BHA and other donors.

### PROTECTION

USG partners—including UNFPA, UNICEF, and several NGOs—provide multi-sector protection assistance to promote the dignity and safety of conflict-affected and vulnerable people in Sudan. Between April 15 and August 11, UNFPA provided seven health facilities in Khartoum and West Darfur with medical supplies sufficient to respond to more than 5,100 sexual and reproductive health emergencies. Additionally, UNFPA reached nearly 12,000 girls and women across eight states with life-saving dignity kits and information about GBV services.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support IOM, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNHCR, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and additional NGO partner organizations 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. In addition, USG 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 13 additional partner organizations prevent, identify, and treat acute malnutrition through multi-sector integrated interventions, including the provision of nutritional supplements, as well as agriculture, food security, health, and WASH activities. As of August, nearly 76 percent of outpatient therapeutic programs were active across Sudan to treat severe acute malnutrition in children under five years of age. USAID/BHA-supported nutrition programming includes educational activities and malnutrition treatment focused on children and pregnant and lactating women.



## 2.7 Million

People in Sudan provided safe drinking water by UNICEF between July 16 and August 15

## WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, and 19 NGOs to provide emergency WASH assistance in Sudan. With USAID/BHA and other donor support, UNICEF reached an estimated 2.7 million people in Sudan with safe drinking water between July 16 and August 15.

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners—including UNHCR and UNICEF—also assist in preventing and containing disease outbreaks, including dengue and malaria. During Sudan’s annual rainy season, USAID/BHA partners support flood-affected populations with emergency WASH supplies—such as chlorine for water purification, hygiene kits, and water containers—to ensure access to safe drinking water.

### CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Fighting between RSF elements and the SAF began on April 15, 2023, significantly escalating the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. On April 23, USAID/BHA activated a Nairobi, Kenya-based Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to coordinate the USG response to escalating needs.
- The UN estimates that 24.7 million people require humanitarian assistance in Sudan in 2023, an increase from 15.8 million estimated to be in need prior to the RSF–SAF conflict. Access restrictions, bureaucratic impediments, insecurity, and limited funding hinder relief agencies’ ability to respond to humanitarian and recovery needs in Sudan.
- On October 6, 2022, U.S. Ambassador John T. Godfrey reissued a declaration of humanitarian need (DHN) in Sudan for FY 2023. The U.S. Mission in Sudan has issued disaster declarations or DHNs due to the complex emergency in Sudan annually since 1987.
- In April 2019, a civilian uprising grew out of protests against fuel shortages, high bread prices, 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 transitional 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.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>1,2</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>FUNDING IN SUDAN FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			
USAID/BHA			
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination, Information, and Assessments (HCIMA), Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$25,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$9,000,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$23,000,000
UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$600,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Blue Nile, Central Darfur, North Darfur, South Darfur, South Kordofan, West Darfur	\$3,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$15,300,000
	Nutrition—U.S. In-Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Countrywide	\$9,500,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$36,000,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$147,951,915
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$32,696,000
	Program Support		\$402,442
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN SUDAN IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$302,450,358</b>
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$11,100,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$54,100,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$12,000,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$5,400,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$1,730,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN SUDAN IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$84,330,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN SUDAN IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$386,780,358</b>

## USG REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>1,2,3</sup>

<b>FUNDING IN CAR FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDING IN CAR IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$8,000,000</b>
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,300,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$4,300,000
UNFPA	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDING IN CAR IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$6,100,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN CAR IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$14,100,000</b>

<b>FUNDING IN CHAD FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$550,000
WFP	Food Assistance, Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$14,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDING IN CHAD IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$17,050,000</b>
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,400,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$33,300,000
UNFPA	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$400,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$2,315,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDING IN CHAD IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$38,915,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN CHAD IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$55,965,000</b>
<b>FUNDING IN EGYPT FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance	Aswan	\$6,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDING IN EGYPT IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$6,000,000</b>
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$5,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDING IN EGYPT IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$12,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN EGYPT IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$18,000,000</b>
<b>FUNDING IN ETHIOPIA FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,600,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,600,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$6,400,000
UNFPA	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$600,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDING IN ETHIOPIA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$10,200,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$10,200,000</b>
<b>FUNDING IN SOUTH SUDAN FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice, HCIMA, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Protection, Shelter, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
IOM	HCIMA, Health, Logistics, Health, MPCA, Protection, Shelter, WASH	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, Protection	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance, Logistics, Nutrition,	Countrywide	\$11,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDING IN SOUTH SUDAN IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$22,000,000</b>
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,800,000

UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,300,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$34,100,000
UNFPA	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$500,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$1,295,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDING IN SOUTH SUDAN IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$39,995,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN SOUTH SUDAN IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$61,995,000</b>
<b>REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Multi-Sector Assistance	Regionwide	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM REGIONAL FUNDING FOR SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDING IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$355,500,358</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDING IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$191,640,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$547,140,358</b>

<sup>1</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 August 18, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> USAID/BHA funding in CAR, Chad, and South Sudan supports programming to address preexisting needs in the countries, as well as new needs caused by the ongoing crisis in Sudan. Additionally, USAID/BHA and State/PRM funding for CAR, Chad, and South Sudan benefiting displaced people from Sudan is also reported in the USG CAR Fact Sheet, USAID/BHA Chad Assistance Overview, and USG South Sudan Fact Sheet, respectively.

## 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://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://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://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)