

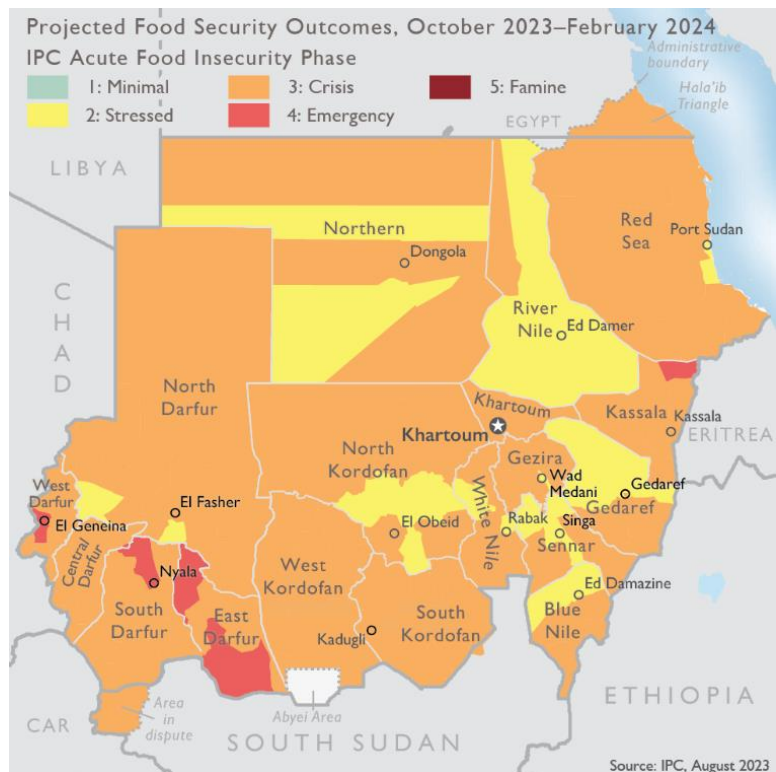
Sudan – Complex Emergency

OCTOBER 13, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

10,288	24.7 MILLION	4.5 MILLION	825,311	280,480
Deaths Caused by Ongoing Conflict in Sudan Since April 15, 2023 <i>ACLED – October 2023</i>	Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance <i>UN – May 2023</i>	People Internally Displaced Since April 15, 2023 <i>IOM – October 2023</i>	Sudanese Refugees and Asylum Seekers Displaced Since April 15, 2023 <i>UNHCR – October 2023</i>	Newly Arrived Refugee Returnees Displaced Since April 15, 2023 <i>UNHCR – October 2023</i>

- Continued clashes in recent weeks between RSF and SAF have resulted in at least 25 deaths and injury to several people across Sudan, relief actors and local media report.
- The Sudan Ministry of Health and WHO declared an outbreak of cholera in Gedaref State in late September amid increasing cases of cholera and dengue fever across Sudan, primarily in Gedaref and Khartoum states.
- Displaced populations face deteriorating humanitarian conditions due to RSF–SAF clashes near IDP camps in Central Darfur.
- On September 29, the USG announced \$21.5 million to support food and nutrition assistance to host communities, refugees, and returnees in eastern Chad.



¹ FY 2024 funding for the Sudan Complex Emergency will be included in future products when committed/obligated. For information on the U.S. Government (USG)'s funding toward the response in FY 2023, refer to Sudan Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #20 released on September 29, 2023, available on the USAID website at <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Continued RSF–SAF Hostilities Across Sudan Cause Heightened Insecurity and Increased Humanitarian Needs

Clashes in and around Sudan’s capital city of Khartoum resulted in the deaths of at least ten civilians and injury to at least 11 other people on September 28 when the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) shelled a public transport station in Omdurman city, according to local media. A Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) spokesperson and the Aljarafa Resistance Committee—a neighborhood group initially formed to organize civil disobedience campaigns against the former Government of Sudan under former President Omar al-Bashir—reported indiscriminate bombing of the area by RSF, leading to increased insecurity for civilians. Meanwhile, RSF attacks targeting SAF military bases in Khartoum State have intensified since mid-September.

Heavy clashes between SAF and RSF also broke out near North Kordofan State’s Um Rawaba town on October 1, leading to the deaths of at least nine civilians, injuries among both civilians and combatants, and the displacement of up to 400 households, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). As a precaution, local officials closed the market in Um Rawaba and urged residents to stay in their homes, further limiting civilian movement and ability to access food and other basic commodities. Moreover, armed clashes renewed between the RSF and SAF in North Kordofan State’s capital city of El Obeid on October 8, leading to the deaths of six individuals, injury to more than 50 others, and damage to several buildings around El Obeid’s main market, according to IOM. Residents in western neighborhoods of El Obeid were displaced to eastern and northern neighborhoods; the total number of displaced people is unknown as of October 9. Local relief workers have appealed to the international community for blood donations, equipment for minor surgeries, medications, and other medical supplies for the El Obeid Teaching Hospital due to the urgent health needs arising from the clashes, according to local media. Tensions remain heightened in El Obeid and the area remains inaccessible to humanitarian actors as of October 9, IOM reported. Clashes between RSF and SAF to control El Obeid are driven by its strategic location connecting the Darfur and Kordofan regions, according to local media.

Cholera and Dengue Cases Spread Throughout Sudan

In late September, the Sudan Ministry of Health and the UN World Health Organization (WHO) each declared an outbreak of cholera in Gedaref State. As of October 8, the Ministry of Health reports at least 23 cholera-related deaths and more than 400 cholera cases in Gedaref. In addition, there are approximately 35 cholera-related deaths and 540 cholera cases in Khartoum, according to national media. WHO announced its deployment of rapid response teams—field-based teams trained to respond to health emergencies—to Gedaref and Khartoum in late September to respond to the increasing cholera cases. The UN agency is also actively supporting Sudan’s Ministry of Health to transfer samples of suspected cholera cases to the WHO-supported National Public Health Laboratory in Port Sudan and continues to surveil communities in affected and high-risk areas. With support from WHO and humanitarian partners, the Ministry of Health is working to scale up water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services by facilitating awareness campaigns about disease transmission risks and proper hygiene practices and increasing populations’ access to clean water and sanitation facilities.

The Health Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—reported nearly 3,400 cases of dengue fever and two related deaths across Sudan between mid-April and September 21. The actual number of cases is likely significantly higher as many patients rely on home remedies and private health care providers and are therefore not recognized by disease surveillance systems, according to the UN.

As dengue spreads, obtaining medical treatment has become more difficult due to countrywide medication shortages and prices increases, local media reports. The Ministry of Health reported Gedaref is the most affected state for dengue fever due to the high density of mosquitoes and the lack of herd immunity. WHO reported 16 related deaths, 960 confirmed cases, and more than 1,200 suspected cases in the state between July 31—the date of the first reported case in Gedaref—and October 8. State authorities in Gedaref began a vector control campaign during the week of September 25 while WHO continues to carry out case management training, surveillance, and support for its rapid response teams, the UN reported on September 28; however, the UN has also indicated insecticide-treated net shortages. Meanwhile, the Gedaref Teaching Hospital lacks capacity to test all the suspected cases that arrive per day as of September 26, according to local media. The recent disease outbreaks indicate growing health concerns across the country as conflict persists into its sixth month.

Central Darfur IDP Camps and Surrounding Areas Face Insecurity and Deteriorating Humanitarian Conditions

On September 26, clashes between RSF and SAF in areas surrounding El Hasaheisa internally displaced persons (IDP) camp near Central Darfur's capital city of Zalingei led to the deaths of six IDPs, according to the UN. The combatants reportedly occupied a school near the camp from where they shelled opponents, placing displaced people at risk of being caught in the crossfire. The conflict further displaced 2,300 people after their shelters were burnt during clashes. Meanwhile, hostilities also damaged the camp's water pumps, cutting off water supply for the more than 50,000 the camp residents, relief actors report. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Clementine Nkweta-Salami released a statement on October 5 condemning the attacks on civilians and IDP camps, urging parties to the conflict to abide by their obligations to safeguard civilians and civilian infrastructure and to respect international humanitarian and human rights laws.

Community leaders report deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Rongatass IDP camp in Central Darfur State's Azum locality, according to the UN. Rongatass IDP camp previously hosted approximately 23,000 IDPs and returnees and received an additional 32,000 people from West Darfur's Mornie town, who arrived after an attack in July. The host community has been sharing food, health supplies, and water with the new arrivals. In October community leaders warned that the camp had run out of food and medical supplies and that IDPs may be further displaced if no assistance is provided in the coming month.

USG Announces \$21.5 Million in Humanitarian Aid Funding to Sudanese Refugees in Chad

On September 29, U.S. Ambassador to Chad Alex Laskaris announced that the U.S. Government (USG), through USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA), is providing \$21.5 million in additional humanitarian funding to support life-saving food and nutrition assistance to host communities, refugees, and returnees in eastern Chad. Heightened conflict in Sudan displaced more than 420,000 people from Sudan to Chad between April 15 and September 30 according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), exacerbating existing humanitarian needs in eastern areas of Chad, especially in Ouaddaï, Sila, and Wadi Fira provinces.

Since the start of the crisis, USG partner UNHCR and its implementing partners had relocated approximately 176,000 Sudanese refugees via 225 convoys from border sites in eastern Chad to existing and new camps in Ouaddaï, Sila, and Wadi Fira provinces—where they have better access to humanitarian assistance, including basic amenities and protection services—as of September 15, according to the UN agency. This represents nearly 42 percent of the total population displaced from

Sudan to Chad. USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) also continues to provide food assistance in eastern Chad and reached nearly 390,000 refugees, Chadian migrant returnees, and vulnerable people from host communities in Ouaddaï, Sila, and Wadi Fira as of September 18.

KEY FIGURES



3 Million

People reached with WFP food assistance between the onset of the crisis in mid-April and early October



1,000 Metric Tons

Of medical supplies shipped by WHO across Sudan with USAID/BHA support since the crisis began



2.9 Million

Children screened for malnutrition by USG partner UNICEF between April 15 and August 31.



16,800

Women and girls reached with dignity kits and information about GBV services between April 15 and September 18 by USG partner UNFPA

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA and U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (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. The UN agency reached an estimated 3 million people across Sudan between the onset of the crisis in mid-April and early October with support from USAID/BHA and other donors.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support IOM, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNHCR, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO, and additional NGO partners 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 and Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries.

NUTRITION

With USAID/BHA and State/PRM support, IOM, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and other 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 September 30, more than 80 percent of outpatient therapeutic programs were active—with varying levels of supplies, staff, and operability—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.

PROTECTION

USG partners—including UNFPA, UNICEF, and several NGOs—provide conflict-affected and vulnerable people with USG support in Sudan as well as neighboring countries. Between April 15 and September 18, UNFPA delivered medical supplies sufficient to respond 500,000 sexual and reproductive health emergencies to five health facilities in two states. Additionally, UNFPA reached nearly 16,800 girls and women across eight

states with life-saving dignity kits and information about GBV services during the same period.



2.8 Million

People in Sudan provided safe drinking water by USG partner UNICEF between April 15 and August 31

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, and NGOs to provide emergency WASH assistance in Sudan. With USAID/BHA and other donor support, UNICEF reached an estimated 2.8 million people in Sudan with safe drinking water between April 15 and August 31.

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners—including UNHCR, UNICEF, and WHO—also assist in preventing and containing disease outbreaks, including cholera, dengue and malaria. During Sudan’s annual rainy season, USG 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 regionally 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 detailed 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.

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)