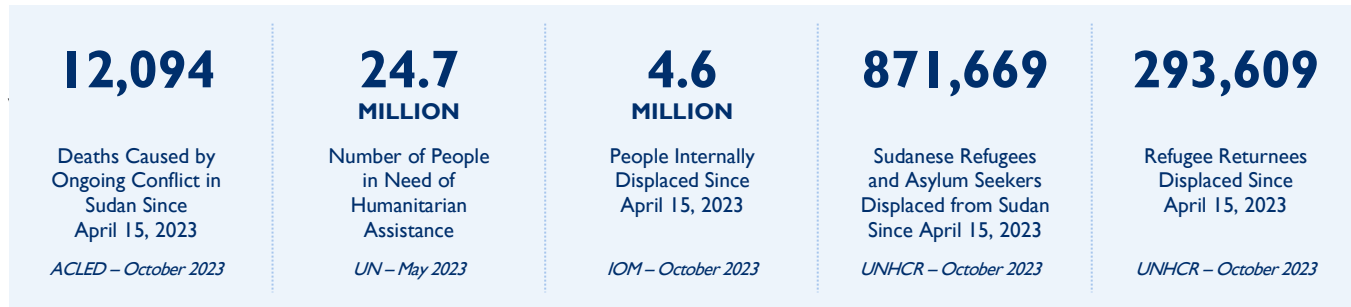


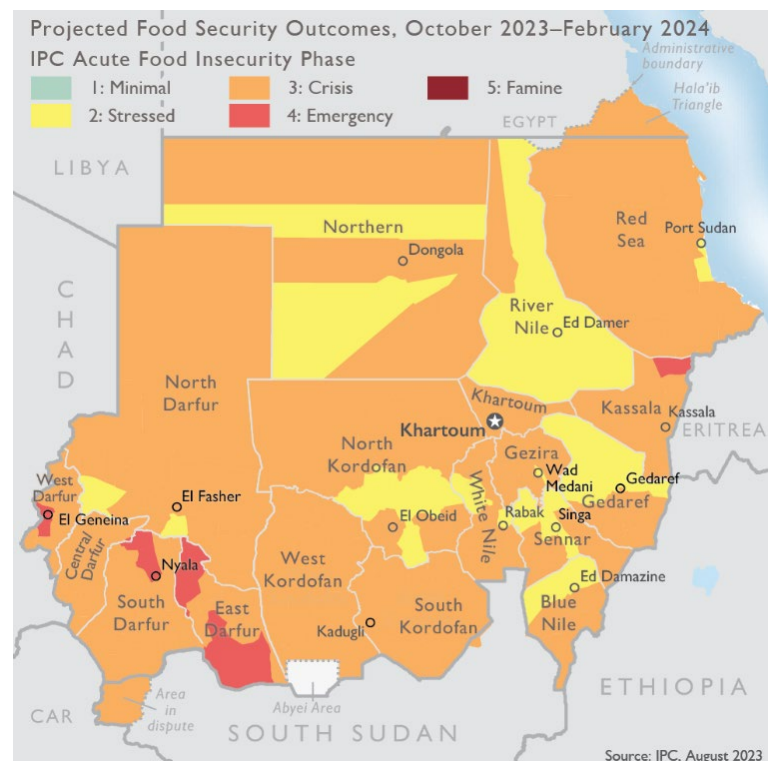
Sudan – Complex Emergency

OCTOBER 27, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Following more than six months of clashes, the Sudan conflict has resulted in the deaths of more than 12,000 individuals and displaced nearly 4.6 million people as of October 19.
- RSF- and SAF-imposed blockades in Central Darfur, Gezira, and South Darfur states restrict civilian movements and the transportation of critical aid, exacerbating already heightened humanitarian needs.
- Swarms of desert locusts infested an unknown number of farms and cities in eastern Sudan in early October, without preventative measures, pest infestations could result in diminished crop harvests.
- Nearly 90 percent of individuals interviewed in Central Darfur State’s Jebel Marra region are struggling or unable to meet basic needs, compared to approximately 70 percent prior to the crisis.



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

Six Months of Conflict in Sudan Result in Widespread Humanitarian Need, Resource Shortages

Following more than six months of conflict, the crisis in Sudan has resulted in the death of more than 12,000 individuals and displaced nearly 4.6 million individuals across Sudan and surrounding countries, according to Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as of October 19. Humanitarian organizations and diplomatic missions continue to request parties to the conflict in Sudan end hostilities and deepen access to humanitarian assistance, as an estimated 24.7 million people require humanitarian assistance. In an October 15 speech to the UN, UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Martin Griffiths called on the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law and honor the commitments made during the ceasefire talks held in Saudi Arabia's Jeddah city in May and June. In addition, representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum called for unimpeded access to humanitarian aid and the protection of civilians and their human rights.

Within the last six months, persistent armed conflict and targeted attacks on health facilities significantly disrupted Sudan's health system and may result in high numbers of preventable deaths among children and vulnerable populations in the coming months, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan Clementine Nkweta-Salami expressed concern over the nearly 60 attacks on the health care system since April 15 and called on RSF and SAF actors to protect civilian infrastructure, in an October 25 statement. Amid a lack of health services, the UN reported more than 1,600 suspected cases of cholera and 67 cholera-related deaths in four states including Al Jazirah, Gedaref, Khartoum, and South Kordofan, on October 22. In addition, the number of food-insecure households has almost doubled in Sudan since the start of the conflict. Approximately 700,000 children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition, of those, 100,000 children require life-saving treatment for acute malnutrition with medical complications, according to UNICEF and the UN World Health Organization (WHO). The increasing inflation rates and decreasing amounts of staple foods have resulted in diminishing food security and nutrition outcomes countrywide, which are projected to worsen in the coming months, the UN reports. To date relief actors have delivered nearly 163,900 metric tons (MT) of relief items via approximately 3,600 trucks to the Darfur and Kordofan regions, and other states since May 22, according to the UN. However, bureaucratic constraints and active conflict have impeded access to many areas, including in the Darfur and Kordofan regions and Khartoum city, hindering relief actors' ability to reach populations in dire need of assistance.

Parties to the Conflict Block Humanitarian Assistance, Exacerbating Needs

Both RSF and SAF blockades in Central Darfur, Khartoum, and South Darfur states restrict civilian movements and the transportation of critical aid, exacerbating already heightened humanitarian needs. For instance, RSF actors have shelled and blocked humanitarian access to El Hasaheisa IDP camp—which already hosted 55,000 IDPs prior to the conflict—in Central Darfur's capital city of Zalingei for approximately one-month, local media reported on October 20. Without the delivery of relief commodities, humanitarian conditions in the camp continue to deteriorate as current humanitarian stocks are depleted, leaving camp residents with severe shortages of food, water, and other necessities. RSF entities have also allegedly detained relief actors for attempting to deliver essential provisions to the camp, according to local media.

Separately, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reported it is suspending surgery operations at Bashair Hospital in Sudan's capital city of Khartoum on October 18 after SAF blocked the transport of surgical

supplies from Gezira State's capital city of Wad Medani for more than a month. MSF surgical teams have performed nearly 5,000 emergency interventions and 3,000 surgical procedures, including trauma surgery and Cesarean-sections, since mid-May; however, the organization is unable to continue these activities without the necessary supplies. MSF continues to support emergency, maternal, and outpatient care at Bashair Teaching Hospital and health services at three other hospitals in Khartoum State's Khartoum and Omdurman cities. However, surgical supplies at the Turkish Hospital in south Khartoum—also affected by the SAF's blockage—are likely to run out within the next two weeks. MSF reported it continues to discuss with authorities for the removal of these access impediments.

In addition, RSF actors have blocked citizens from entering and exiting South Darfur's capital city of Nyala's since October 18, according to local media. RSF entities are also preventing water trucks from entering the neighborhoods and continue to target civilians with armed attacks. Persistent RSF-SAF clashes in Nyala since mid-April have destroyed critical infrastructure and displaced large numbers of people around the state and region, exacerbating humanitarian needs, according to international media. Damage to and disruption of communications and internet networks in South Darfur continues to hinder residents' ability to communicate with relief actors, further impeding humanitarian relief efforts.

Swarms of Desert Locusts May Damage Crop Harvest in Eastern Sudan

Swarms of desert locusts, originating in South Sudan, infested an unknown number of farms and cities in eastern Sudan in early October, local media reported on October 14. Sudan is facing a shortage of pesticides, with insecurity hindering the delivery of supplies around the country, according to the Government of Sudan (GoS) Ministry of Agriculture. Without preventative measures, pest infestations in Sudan could result in diminished crop harvests, exacerbating the already limited agricultural activities—with insecurity impeding access to agricultural inputs, fields, fuel, and market—and contributing to poor food and nutrition outcomes countrywide. The GoS Locust Control Unit also expressed concern that ongoing insecurity could undermine timely surveillance and preventive pest control. USG partners, in coordination with the GoS Ministry of Agriculture, continue to monitor the presence of desert locusts in the country.

Nearly 90 Percent of Interviewees in Jebel Marra Are Unable to Meet Basic Needs

Nearly 90 percent of individuals interviewed in Jebel Marra—a mountainous region in Central Darfur State which has experienced a large influx of people who have fled fighting in other parts of the Darfur region—are struggling or unable to meet basic needs, compared to approximately 70 percent before the crisis began in April, according to an assessment conducted by Islamic Relief, published on October 13, which interviewed more than 380 households in 20 villages in the region. More than 90 percent of surveyed individuals had lost income since the eruption of conflict in Sudan in mid-April and were struggling to afford food and health care, according to the assessment. As a result, many households have adopted negative coping strategies, such as begging, child labor, or debt accumulation.

Approximately 75 percent of respondents lacked access to clean drinking water, according to the survey. Rising fuel costs have resulted in some providers' water costs increasing by up to 400 percent. Additionally, available water sources are under significant pressure due to the influx of displaced people to the area since mid-April, forcing people to travel further to access water and increasing risks to their safety. More than 80 percent of women surveyed described fearing an attack when fulfilling household responsibilities, including walking to fetch water. Moreover, Islamic Relief found that 90 percent of female survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) are unable to access support services.

President of Chad Seeks International Support for Sudanese Refugees

The President of Chad Mohamed Deby emphasized the need for immediate humanitarian assistance—including food, shelter, and water support—from the international community in a state television broadcast during the week of October 9. Most individuals displaced to neighboring countries by the Sudan crisis fled to Chad, with approximately 442,250 Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers arriving in the country between April 15 and October 16, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In his broadcast, President Deby highlighted the growing tensions between Sudanese refugees and host communities along the Chad–Sudan border and noted Chad’s already strained resources are inadequate to accommodate newly arrived refugees. Approximately 242,000 Sudanese refugees had arrived in Chad’s Adre town in Ouaddai Province as of early October, four times more than the town’s population, according to the Government of Chad and local media. While Department of State Bureau of Populations, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner UNHCR and their partners facilitated the relocation of nearly 177,000 people from border areas to seven existing camps and four new camps in Ouaddai, Sila, and Wadi Fira provinces as of October 9. The UN estimates that the total number of people from Sudan in Chad may rise to 600,000 people by the end of the year.

KEY FIGURES



3 Million

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



1,000 MT

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) and State/PRM support multiple UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGO) 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 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, 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 internally displaced persons, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Sudan and Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries.



3.2 Million

Children screened for malnutrition by USG partner UNICEF between April 15 and September 30

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 water, sanitation, and hygiene (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.



16,800

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

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.



3.4 Million

People in Sudan provided safe drinking water by USG partner UNICEF between April 15 and September 30

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 3.4 million people in Sudan with safe drinking water between April 15 and September 30. 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.
- The Inter-Agency Standing Committee activated a system-wide scale-up for Sudan—formerly known as an L3 emergency—from August 29, 2023 to February 28, 2024, according to a recently released press release from ERC Griffiths. The scale-up will mobilize the operational capacities and resources needed to match the scale, complexity, and urgency of the crisis in Sudan. The Sudan Humanitarian Country Team continues to finalize benchmarks for the scale-up but had not done so as of August 29.

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](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)