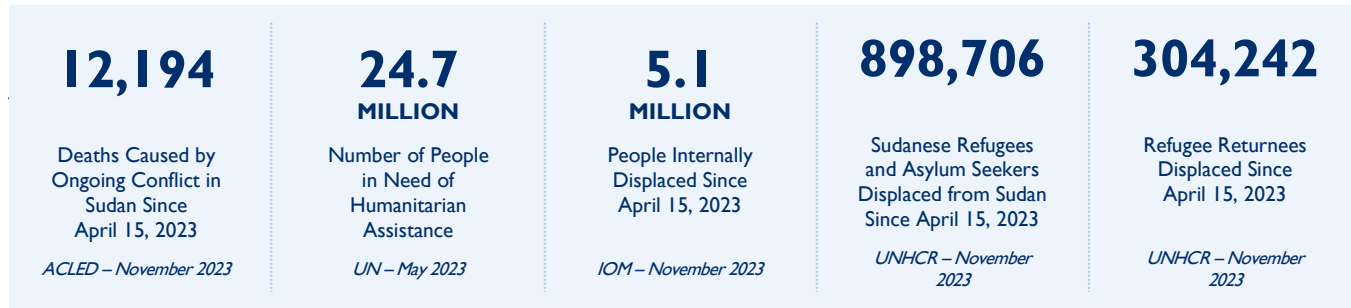


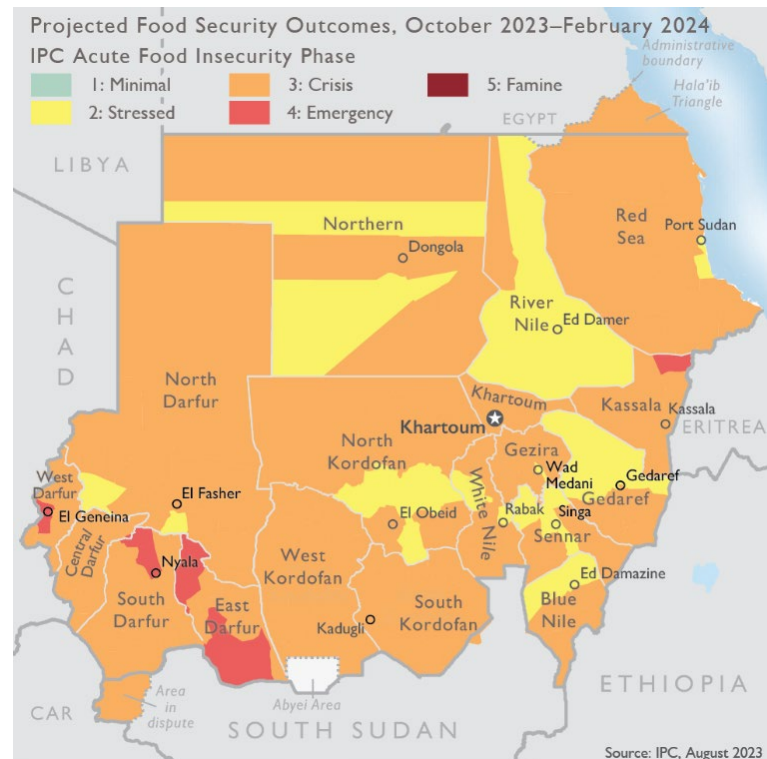
Sudan – Complex Emergency

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Sudan hosts the largest number of displaced children globally, with more than 3.3 million children displaced from violence in the country and in neighboring countries, ACAPS reports as of mid-November.
- Reports of abductions and GBV incidents have increased since the RSF's takeover of West Darfur State's El Geneina city on November 4.
- Khartoum's Turkish Hospital may close in one month due to the SAF's blockade of surgical supplies from hospitals in RSF-controlled areas since September, MSF reports.
- WFP warned of dwindling food assistance for the more than 540,000 refugees who have fled from Sudan to Chad since the eruption of conflict in mid-April.



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

Nearly 5.1 Million People Displaced; More than 2,500 Cholera Cases Reported

Children continue to bear the brunt of the violence as Sudan is now the largest child displacement crisis in the world, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reports. Nearly 5.1 million people are displaced across all 18 states in Sudan after seven months of armed conflict in the country, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported on November 20. Of those, nearly 3.3 million children have fled the violence in search of food, health care, safety, and shelter—most within Sudan—while hundreds of thousands are sheltering in informal camps in neighboring countries, according to ACAPS. UNICEF estimates that 14 million children require humanitarian assistance while nearly 19 million children are out of school in the country. Despite insecurity in the country, humanitarian organizations, including U.S. Government (USG) partners, reached approximately 5.5 million people with livelihood support and 4.5 million people with multi-sector humanitarian assistance between April and November, according to the UN.

Disease outbreaks are increasing in Sudan due to the disruption of basic public health services, including disease surveillance, functioning health facilities, and rapid response teams, and lack of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. For example, approximately 7.4 million children lack access to safe drinking water and are at serious risk of diarrheal diseases including cholera, while 65 percent of Sudan’s population lacks access to healthcare, the UN reports. The Government of Sudan’s (GoS) Ministry of Health (MoH) and the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reported at least 2,525 suspected cholera cases, including 78 cholera-related deaths, across 27 localities in Sudan between July and November 9. In response to the rising cases, WHO delivered nearly 34 metric tons (MT) of supplies for the cholera response, including laboratory equipment and medicines, to Red Sea State’s capital city of Port Sudan on November 8, marking the sixth WHO flight of supplies delivered in the past few months. The International Coordination Group on Vaccine Provision Secretariat—composed of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), UNICEF, and WHO—responded to the MoH’s request for more than 2.9 million doses of oral cholera vaccines for vaccination campaigns in nine localities in Gedaref, Gezira, and Khartoum states. Vaccines arrived on November 14 and vaccination campaigns began on November 20, national media reports.

Relief Actors Report Abductions and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Sudan

Relief actors have reported abductions and sexual violence against women and girls in the Khartoum area since the conflict began in mid-April; however, humanitarian actors reported an increased number of cases in the Darfur and Kordofan regions in recent months.² Notably, reports of gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual violence against women, have increased since the RSF took over West Darfur State’s El Geneina city on November 4, as RSF actors are reportedly targeting Masalit communities and other non-Arab groups based on ethnic identity in West Darfur. Armed actors abducted and forcibly held at least 20 Sudanese women and girls in extremely poor, degrading conditions in RSF-controlled areas of Darfur region during recent weeks, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Women and girls are allegedly forcibly married and held for ransom, with reports of women and girls in chains on pick-up trucks and cars, according to the UN agency. OHCHR reports at least 105 people experienced sexual violence between April 15 and November 2; however, this figure is likely a significant undercount, with documented rapes likely

² 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.

representing only 2 percent of the total cases, according to the Combating Violence Against Women Unit (CVAW), an office under the GoS Ministry of Social Development. Women and girls who experienced abduction or conflict-related sexual violence need medical and psychosocial services, among other health and protection support, according to OHCHR. However, widespread attacks on health infrastructure have prevented survivors from accessing timely life-saving medical treatment, CVAW reports. In a November 14 statement, UN Under-Secretary General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Alice Wairimu Nderitu reiterated her strong condemnation of the appalling reports of grave human rights violations and abuses committed in the region and in the country, including identity-based killings, rape, and other forms of sexual violence, torture, enforced disappearances, mass arrests and detention, bombings of civilian homes and infrastructures, and lootings.

The USG and its partners continue to provide protection assistance to vulnerable populations. For example, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) had distributed 3,000 dignity kits cross-border from Chad to El Geneina as of October 31. The UN agency also reached 141,000 individuals with life-saving services and GBV awareness-raising sessions between April and October. In addition, UNFPA trained more than 3,000 frontline GBV service providers and humanitarian actors on GBV concepts, conflict-related sexual violence, GBV in emergencies, remote service provision, psychological first aid and case management, and how to set up temporary safe spaces and preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, during the period.

Turkish Hospital in Khartoum May Run Out of Health Supplies Due to SAF-Imposed Ban on Health Supplies

SAF actors have blocked the transportation of surgical supplies from hospitals in RSF-controlled areas of Sudan's capital city of Khartoum since September. As a result, the Turkish Hospital in southern Khartoum is at risk of running out of supplies, MSF reported in a public statement. SAF initially implemented the ban to prevent wounded soldiers from receiving medical treatment, which is a violation of international humanitarian law; however, the medical supply ban has prevented civilians from receiving treatment as at least two-thirds of the surgeries performed in the Turkish Hospital are cesarean sections, according to MSF. Armed actors have consistently targeted attacks against medical facilities, personnel, and supplies since the conflict began, resulting in limited options for health care, particularly surgery, in Khartoum. For example, Bashair Teaching Hospital suspended surgery services in October due to an SAF-imposed blockage on health supplies. Its suspension left the Turkish Hospital as one of the only remaining facilities in southern Khartoum with operational capabilities. MSF warned that without supplies, the Turkish Hospital will have to suspend surgery services by the end of November.

RSF-SAF Clashes Near Khartoum Damage Infrastructure and Suspend Humanitarian Assistance

RSF-SAF clashes erupted on October 11 in Jebel Awliya town, 24 miles south of Khartoum, and remained ongoing as of November 16, according to local media. RSF actors reportedly forcefully entered homes, killed inhabitants, shelled residential areas, and detained young men, according to local media. The clashes downed phone and internet networks in the town, hindering information gathering. Moreover, an RSF capture of the Jebel Awliya dam, located near Jebel Awliya, would restore the link between RSF forces east and west of the Nile, local media report. As of November 16, the UN World Food Program (WFP) suspended the movement of food assistance which originally planned to reach 144,000 people in Jebel Awliya.

The violence in Jebel Awliya follows RSF-SAF clashes in Khartoum on November 4 which resulted in the destruction of Shambat Bridge, which connects Khartoum State's Bahri and Omdurman cities. The

reportedly RSF-occupied bridge was one of the RSF's main access routes to the greater Khartoum area from its stronghold in the Darfur region, international media reports. The Shambat Bridge was also a main access route for civilians and its destruction may adversely affect their ability to access health care and other basic needs. Moreover, the destruction of Shambat Bridge and potential damage to the Jebel Awliya dam bridge could result in flooding across the state, putting more civilians at risk of damaged and destroyed shelters and displacement.

GoS Requests the UNSC to Terminate UNITAMS

The GoS formally requested the UN Security Council (UNSC) terminate the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) in a letter to the UN Secretary General on November 16, citing a lack of progress and a need for a new form of cooperation with the UN, according to national media. UNITAMS was initially established by the UN in June 2020 for 12 months to assist Sudan transition to democratic governance; the UNSC renewed the mandate through December 2023. The GoS letter precedes the UNSC's vote to renew UNITAMS following its expiration on December 3. While calling for the withdrawal of UNITAMS, the letter noted the GoS was committed to constructive engagement with the UN.

WFP Chad Warns of Dwindling Food Supplies for Refugees in Chad

WFP Chad warned of the waning supply of food assistance for the more than 540,000 refugees who have fled from Sudan to Chad since the eruption of conflict in mid-April. WFP anticipates food commodities will run out in December without additional funding, affecting approximately 1.4 million crisis-affected individuals in Chad. The recent influx of Sudanese refugees since mid-April has exacerbated already limited food commodities for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees residing in camps in eastern Chad. Due to low funding, WFP only assisted 1 million individuals out of the 2.3 million individuals targeted for food assistance in August, leaving 1.3 million individuals without food assistance during the lean season. The UN agency also indicated concern that the lack of food assistance will contribute to poor nutrition outcomes for refugees. Approximately 90 percent of new arrivals, 80 percent of pre-existing refugees, and 70 percent of local community's report poor or borderline food consumption according to WFP's Emergency Food Security Assessment conducted in eastern Chad during October.

KEY FIGURES



3 Million

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

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, 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.



1,000 MT

Of medical supplies shipped by WHO across Sudan with USAID/BHA support between April 15 and October 4

HEALTH

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



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 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.



141,000

Women and girls reached with dignity kits and information about GBV services between April 15 and October 29 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 October 29, UNFPA delivered reproductive health kits sufficient to support reproductive health needs for an estimated 48,000 individuals across 15 states. During the same period, UNFPA reached approximately 141,000 individuals with dignity kits and awareness raising sessions on clinical management of rape services, psychosocial support, GBV case management, and referrals to other services.



3.4 Million

People in Sudan provided with 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 USG 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

- 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 2019, 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, 2021 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.
- 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 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 press release from UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin 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 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 31, 2023, U.S. Ambassador John T. Godfrey reissued a declaration of humanitarian need (DHN) in Sudan for FY 2024. The U.S. Mission in Sudan has issued disaster declarations or DHNs due to the complex emergency in Sudan annually since 1987.

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.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)