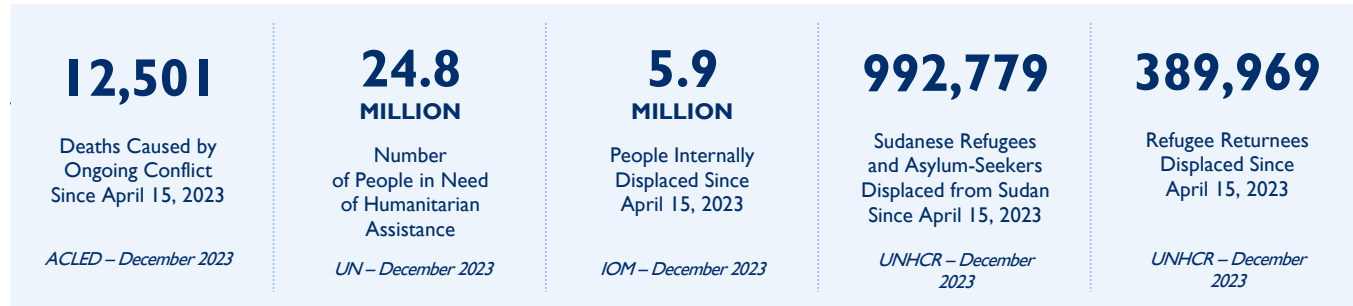


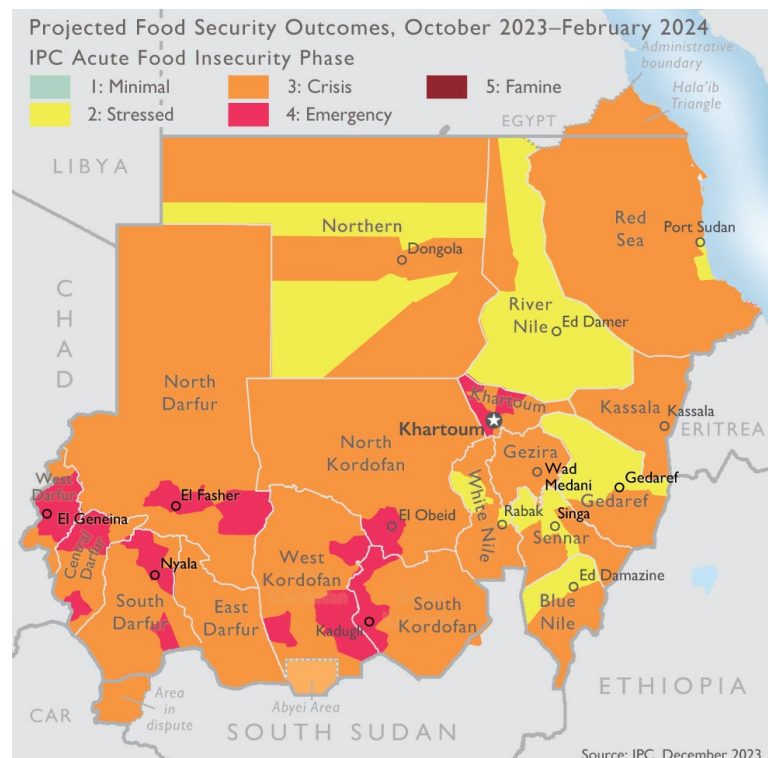
Sudan – Complex Emergency

JANUARY 3, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Since RSF consolidated control in Gezira State on December 19, civilians attempting to flee have faced significant barriers—including RSF-imposed blockades—and heightened protection violations.
- Displaced persons from Gezira have fled to nearby states in Sudan, and USG-supported humanitarian partners have pivoted relief activities to meet resultant needs.
- An estimated 24.8 million people—nearly one-half of Sudan’s population—will require humanitarian assistance across the country in 2024, according to the 2024 Sudan HNRP released on December 21. The HNRP requests \$2.7 billion to assist 14.7 million of the most vulnerable people during the year.



¹ FY 2024 funding for the Sudan Response 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 Fact Sheet #20 released on September 30, 2023 available on the USAID website at <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

RSF Consolidates Control in Gezira, Humanitarian Partners Report Heightened Protection Concerns and Looting Incidents

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) captured Gezira State's capital city of Wad Medani on December 19, following clashes with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) since December 15. The clashes displaced more than 500,000 individuals; however, the figure is likely an underestimate as the situation remains fluid, and logistical challenges—such as poor telecommunications availability—have impeded tracking of population movements, the UN reports. Civilians attempting to flee conflict-affected areas have reportedly faced significant barriers since RSF consolidated control over the state, the Protection Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—reports. RSF actors have allegedly blocked key routes out of Wad Medani and Gezira's Tamboul and Hasahisa cities, and, in some cases, have turned back civilians attempting to flee, ordering them to remain in insecure locations. Protection actors have also reported arbitrary arrests of civilians, increased cases of sexual violence—including the abduction of women and girls and incidents of conflict-related sexual violence affecting children—and the looting of humanitarian commodities, since RSF forces entered Wad Medani. USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) confirmed in a December 28 statement that armed actors had looted the agency's warehouse in Wad Medani, which contained more than 2,500 metric tons (MTs) of assorted food and nutrition commodities intended to support nearly 1.5 million severely food insecure people for one month in Gezira. Civilians unable to flee Gezira risk facing further protection violations and are reportedly experiencing a shortage of basic goods as extensive looting of markets and private property constrains civilians' access to commodities while ongoing insecurity impedes the delivery of humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected areas.

Despite these constraints, USG partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), in coordination with the Government of Sudan's Ministry of Social Development, successfully evacuated more than 200 children from transit centers in Wad Medani to safer locations on December 27, local media report. The movement marks the second evacuation for a majority of the children as relief actors evacuated many of the same children from an orphanage in Sudan's capital city of Khartoum in June 2023. UNICEF is coordinating with authorities and partners to identify foster families for the children. With funding from the USG and other donors, UNICEF and its partners continue to provide critical food, health, nutrition, and psychosocial support to the affected youth. 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) assisted in relocating refugees previously sheltering in Gezira to Gedaref State's Um Gargour and Tunaydbah displacement sites, relocating more than 130 people to Tunaydbah on December 26.

Relief Actors Pivot Aid From Gezira to Reach Newly Displaced Persons

The majority of the approximately 500,000 people displaced from Gezira—including asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and refugees who had previously been sheltering in Wad Medani—have sought refuge in nearby states, including Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, Northern, Red Sea, River Nile, Sennar, and White Nile states. However, the changing security context and poor connectivity have impeded reporting accuracy, and the scale and needs of arrivals remained unclear as of December 28, the UN reports. Local authorities and humanitarian partners in Gedaref reported an estimated 15,000 people had sought shelter with host communities in Gedaref city as of December 28, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had recorded more than 70,000 newly displaced individuals in Sennar, primarily in the state's Sennar and Sinja localities. IDPs in the state have identified

emergency relief supplies, as well as food and shelter assistance, as priority needs, according to a rapid needs assessment undertaken by a USAID/BHA partner between December 17 and 18.

Relief actors—including USG partners—are providing food, health, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to populations displaced from Gezira, the UN reports. A USAID/BHA NGO partner provided medical supplies for two months to five primary health care centers and one mobile clinic in Sennar, serving IDPs from Gezira and previously displaced populations from Khartoum. USG partner the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) also deployed mobile clinics in Sennar to ensure the availability of life-saving health and protection services for new arrivals in the state. A second USAID/BHA NGO partner shifted its USAID/BHA-funded mobile health clinic in Wad Medani to Gedaref to provide critical health and nutrition services to approximately 300 new IDPs sheltering in Gedaref's Um Gulga displacement site, as well as to an estimated 400 IDPs sheltering at two sites in Gedaref's Balila and Gadam localities, on December 23.

24.8 Million People in Sudan Will Require Emergency Assistance in 2024

An estimated 24.8 million people in Sudan—nearly 50 percent of the country's population—will require humanitarian assistance in 2024, according to the 2024 Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) released on December 21. While the overall figure remained equivalent to the estimate in the revised 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the severity of humanitarian needs has increased.² The UN reports a catastrophic severity of needs—the Joint and Intersectoral Analysis Framework's highest severity classification—in 17 localities, compared to 14 localities in May, nearly one-half of which are in the Darfur region.³ The increase is primarily driven by protection concerns, including direct attacks on civilians; the destruction of civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals and schools; and persistent gender-based violence (GBV), including abduction, conflict-related sexual violence, and enslavement. The high intensity of conflict—notably in Khartoum State and the Darfur and Kordofan regions—has also disrupted livelihoods, limited access to essential services, and prompted mass displacement, exacerbating disease outbreaks, food insecurity, and malnutrition.⁴ Since July, the UN had recorded more than 8,500 suspected cases of cholera in nine states as of December 26.

Overall, the HNRP requests \$2.7 billion to assist 14.7 million of the most vulnerable people in 2024 and prioritizes addressing humanitarian access impediments; increasing support for local organizations and the use of multipurpose cash assistance; integrating protection considerations in each sector's programming; and preventing the encampment of displaced individuals. The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) for Sudan Clementine Nkweta-Salami issued a statement following the HNRP's release to urge the international community to continue supporting humanitarian action in Sudan; the 2023 HRP, which requested \$2.6 billion, was less than 40 percent funded as of December.

² The 2024 HNRP combines the HRP and Humanitarian Needs Overview—previously separate documents—to streamline prioritization efforts.

³ Darfur region comprises the following states: Central Darfur, East Darfur, North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur.

⁴ Kordofan region comprises the following states: North Kordofan, South Kordofan, and West Kordofan.

KEY FIGURES



4.8 Million

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



2.8 Million

Oral cholera vaccines shipped to Sudan as of November 30 by UNICEF and WHO



5.2 Million

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



163,000

Women and children accessed GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response interventions from USG partner UNICEF in 2023 as of November.



5.8 Million

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

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 U.S.-sourced and locally and regionally procured cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil, as well as cash transfers for food. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, the UN agency reached an estimated 4.8 million people across Sudan between the onset of the crisis on April 15 and early December.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and NGO partners to provide life-saving health care across Sudan. USAID/BHA partners provide essential medicines, support health facilities, and train implementing partners to address 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 neighboring countries.

NUTRITION

IOM, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and other USAID/BHA and State/PRM partner organizations prevent, identify, and treat acute malnutrition through multi-sector interventions by providing nutritional supplements and conducting agriculture, food security, health, and WASH activities. Between April 15 and November 30, UNICEF screened 5.2 million children ages five years and younger for malnutrition and admitted more than 295,000 children for treatment of severe acute malnutrition.

PROTECTION

USG partners—including UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and several NGOs—provide conflict-affected and vulnerable people with protection support in Sudan, as well as neighboring countries. UNFPA reached approximately 161,000 individuals with dignity kits and information about GBV and other medical services between April 15 and October 29. Additionally, UNFPA-supported mobile clinics provided health and GBV services to more than 30,000 IDPs and host community members across nine states, as of December 27.

WASH

With USAID/BHA and State/PRM support IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, and NGOs continue to provide emergency WASH assistance in Sudan. With USG and other donor support, UNICEF reached an estimated 5.8 million people in Sudan with safe drinking water between April 15 and November 30. USG partners—including UNHCR, UNICEF, and WHO—also assist in preventing and containing vector-borne and waterborne disease outbreaks,

including cholera, dengue, and malaria. During Sudan's June-to-September rainy season, USG partners supported 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 the RSF and 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 (ERC) Martin Griffiths. The scale-up mobilizes the operational capacities and resources needed to match the scale, complexity, and urgency of the crisis in Sudan. However, access restrictions, bureaucratic impediments, insecurity, and limited funding continue to 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.
- The USG, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the International Authority on Development (IGAD)—participating on behalf of the African Union—convened two rounds of humanitarian negotiations between the RSF and SAF in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Following the first round of negotiations in May 2023, representatives signed a ceasefire agreement and the May 11 Declaration, which defined the obligations of both sides under international humanitarian and human rights law to facilitate and safeguard humanitarian action to meet the emergency needs of civilians. However, neither party upheld the ceasefire nor the Declaration during the following months. The second round of negotiations—convened between October 26 and November 7—concluded without a ceasefire agreement, though both parties reaffirmed their obligations under the May 11 Declaration to protect civilians.
- Following the conclusion of the second round of negotiations in Jeddah, RSF and SAF actors also agreed to establish a Humanitarian Forum—led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

(OCHA)—to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance in Sudan. The first Sudan Humanitarian Forum convened on November 13 and was attended by representatives of RSF and SAF, opened by ERC Martin Griffiths, and chaired by Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, RC/HC Clementine Nkweta-Salami.

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)