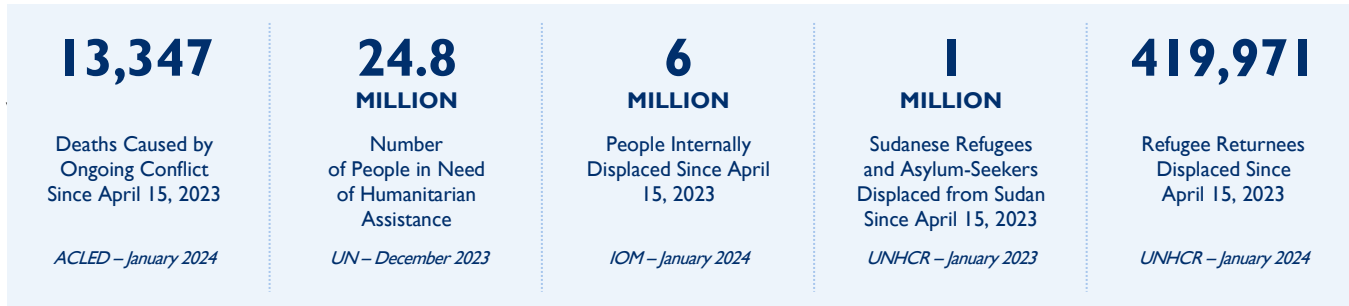


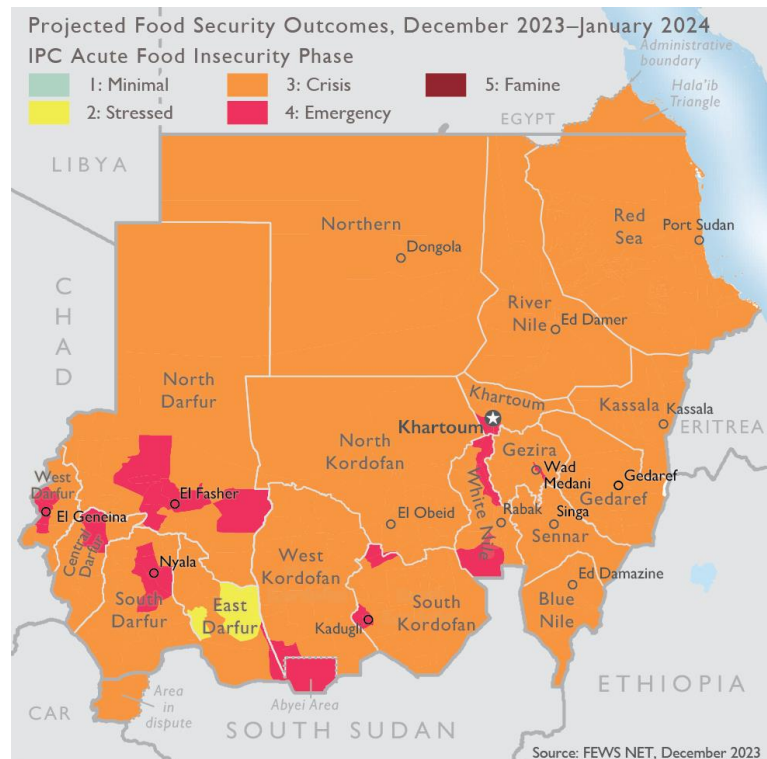
Sudan – Complex Emergency

JANUARY 17, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- RSF’s takeover of Gezira State’s capital city of Wad Medani on December 19, 2023, and resultant conflict had displaced more than 500,000 people as of January 4, IOM reports. Of that total, an estimated 234,000 people are facing secondary displacement after previously being displaced to Gezira from Khartoum State.
- Ongoing insecurity in central and eastern Sudan will likely disrupt the country’s December-to-January harvest season, worsening already severe food insecurity across the country, FEWS NET reports.
- Health actors recorded nearly 9,000 suspected cholera cases across ten states between September 2023 and early January. With USG support, relief actors reached approximately 2.2 million people in Gedaref and Gezira states with oral cholera vaccines in November and December.



Note: 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 Takeover of Gezira Displaces More than 500,000 People, Including 234,000 Originally Displaced From Khartoum

Violence in Gezira State during the Rapid Support Forces' (RSF) takeover of the state's capital city of Wad Medani on December 19, 2023, had displaced more than 500,000 people as of January 4, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. Notably, an estimated 234,000 individuals—approximately 46 percent of those displaced by the violence—faced secondary displacement after previously fleeing from conflict in Khartoum State and seeking refuge in Gezira, IOM reports. While an estimated 205,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) had fled Wad Medani to relatively safer locations in Gezira as of January 4, the majority—approximately 60 percent—of affected individuals fled to other states across Sudan, including Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, Northern, Red Sea, River Nile, Sennar, and White Nile, the UN reports. Displaced persons from Gezira are in urgent need of emergency relief supplies, food, and shelter assistance; however, due to the volatile security situation in Gezira, most humanitarian assistance remained suspended in the state as of mid-January, according to the UN. In total, the ongoing conflict in Sudan has displaced more than 6 million people within Sudan and prompted a further 1.5 million people to flee to neighboring countries between April 15, 2023, and January 9, IOM reports.

Clashes between RSF and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) persisted across Gezira following RSF's consolidation of control in the state. On January 2, SAF launched airstrikes near RSF military headquarters and a central market in Wad Medani, local media report. Additionally, RSF actors attacked a village in Gezira's Janub locality on December 27, resulting in four civilian deaths, the UN reports. Further RSF–SAF clashes in local markets and on the main road between Gezira's El Kubra and Janub localities generated significant displacement during December and January. The number of individuals affected by recent RSF and SAF attacks in Gezira remains unknown due to high levels of insecurity hindering humanitarian and reporting access. Despite these constraints, limited humanitarian activities have continued in the state. Following discussions with the Government of Sudan (GoS) and RSF to assure access and impartiality, some Médecins Sans Frontières staff returned to Wad Medani on January 13, three weeks after the organization had evacuated all staff from the city. Additionally, USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) continues to support the limited provision of nutrition services, including supplementary feeding programs, for conflict-affected populations in two localities in Gezira. USAID/BHA partners are also responding to the needs of displaced persons from Gezira in surrounding states. For example, one nongovernmental organization (NGO) partner continues to provide health, nutrition, and protection services to IDPs through two mobile clinics in Sennar.

Conflict in Central, Eastern Sudan Likely to Further Exacerbate Food Insecurity Nationwide:

Clashes between the RSF and SAF in central and eastern Sudan—particularly in Gezira—and resultant displacement have heightened humanitarian needs during the December-to-January harvest season, typically a period of higher food availability, likely exacerbating already severe levels of food insecurity in the southeast of the country, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports. FEWS NET anticipates widespread Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity across the country during the harvest season, with Emergency—IPC 4—conditions expected in high-conflict areas, including Khartoum

State, parts of Blue Nile State, and the Darfur and Kordofan regions.¹² Notably, IDPs in Khartoum city, South Darfur’s capital city of Nyala, West Darfur’s capital city of El Geneina, and Wad Medani remain the most at-risk to food insecurity due to persistent physical insecurity and related disruptions in humanitarian aid.

Ongoing fighting in central and eastern Sudan—the country’s most important regions for crop production—continues to threaten national food availability. One-half of all wheat produced in Sudan comes from Gezira, where an average of 350,000 metric tons (MT)—enough to feed approximately 6 million people—is harvested annually, according to WFP. However, aerial bombardments targeting civilians, RSF–SAF clashes, and resultant widespread displacement continue to reduce access to farmland for harvesting, as well as contribute to shortages of agricultural machinery, increases in fuel prices, and labor scarcity, FEWS NET reports. Persistent insecurity will likely further disrupt the cultivation of winter wheat between November and January, which FEWS NET had already forecasted to result in a below-average harvest in 2024. In addition, reports of potential RSF advancements into Gedaref State—a critical location for national grain storage—could negatively affect food supplies and prompt an early start to the May-to-October lean season. Insecurity-related effects on agriculture and food access may lead to high pre- and post-harvesting crop losses in conflict-affected areas, exacerbating food insecurity countrywide in the coming months. USAID/BHA partners continue to track the impacts of physical insecurity and resultant grain supply disruptions on food security and coordinate assistance to reach the most vulnerable populations across the country with food assistance.

Nearly 9,000 Suspected Cholera Cases Recorded Across Sudan

The GoS Ministry of Health (MoH) and the UN World Health Organization (WHO) recorded nearly 9,000 suspected cholera cases in Sudan between September 26, 2023, and January 6, representing a more than 40 percent increase compared to the number of suspected cases reported on December 6. This increase is lower compared to previous months; suspected cases increased by more than 140 percent between November 6 and December 6, 2023. Suspected cholera cases also resulted in 245 deaths throughout Sudan between September and January, representing a case fatality rate of nearly 3 percent and exceeding the UN’s emergency threshold of 1 percent. Suspected cases of cholera had spread to ten states as of January, with Gedaref and Red Sea reporting the largest outbreaks, recording approximately 2,000 and 2,700 suspected cases, respectively, WHO reports. Both Gedaref and Red Sea host a high number of IDPs—many of whom lack access to adequate health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure—and received a new influx of IDPs from Gezira in December and early January following the RSF’s takeover of Wad Medani, placing further strain on the states’ limited health and WASH service capacities.

With USG and other donor support, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and WHO continue to lead the emergency health and WASH response in Sudan, supporting critical cholera prevention and response interventions, such as disease surveillance, hygiene promotion, and the testing and provision of safe drinking water. To prevent the further spread of cholera, UNICEF and WHO allocated 2.9 million doses of the oral cholera vaccine for distribution throughout Sudan, and health actors had reached an estimated 2.2 million people in Gedaref and Gezira states with vaccinations as of December 4. In

¹ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

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.

addition, a USAID/BHA NGO partner provided safe drinking water to nearly 2,000 IDPs and host community members across four IDP gathering sites in Red Sea through water trucking services in December. The partner also continues to provide health services, including cholera surveillance and treatment services, through a mobile clinic in Red Sea's capital city of Port Sudan. Another USAID/BHA partner supports cholera response activities in Sennar, including by providing case management, supplies and coordination, and surveillance, as well as risk communication support to the GoS MoH.

KEY FIGURES



4.8 Million

People reached with WFP food assistance between the onset of the crisis in mid-April and early December 2023



2.2 Million

People reached with oral cholera vaccines in Gedaef and Gezira in November and December 2023 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 and response interventions from USG partner UNICEF in 2023 as of November.

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA and the U.S. Department of State's 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 has provided 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 the USG and other donors, the UN agency reached an estimated 4.8 million people across Sudan between April 15, 2023, and early December 2023.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support IOM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), WHO, and NGO partners to deliver life-saving health care across Sudan, including through the use of mobile clinics to access hard-to-reach areas. 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 in Sudan.

PROTECTION

USG partners—including UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and NGOs—provide conflict-affected and vulnerable people with protection support in Sudan, as well as in neighboring countries. With support from UNICEF, 163,000 women and children had accessed gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation, and response interventions in 2023 as of November.

Additionally, UNFPA-supported mobile clinics provided health and GBV prevention and response services to more than 30,000 IDPs and host community members across nine states between April 15 and December 27. USAID/BHA also supports the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to provide critical mine risk awareness information for populations residing in or returning to conflict-affected areas potentially impacted by unexploded ordnance.



5.8 Million

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

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM continue to support IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, and NGOs 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, protection, and security, and 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 a period of political unrest, the military took over the transitional government on October 25, 2021, arresting the civilian leadership and sparking widespread protests across the country. On November 21, 2021, Hamdok was reinstated as Prime Minister under a power-sharing agreement with SAF military leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan; however, he resigned on January 2, 2022. 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 from August 29, 2023, to February 28, 2024, according to a press release from UN Under-Secretary-General and 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 annual disaster declarations or DHNs due to the complex emergency in Sudan since 1987.
- The USG, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development—participating on behalf of the African Union—convened two rounds of ceasefire 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. Parties have not upheld the Declaration, and conflict-related protection violations against civilians have continued.
- 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 meeting of the 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, UN Resident and Humanitarian coordinator for Sudan Clementine Nkweta-Salami. Despite efforts from the UN, additional Humanitarian Forum meetings had not occurred as of January 16 due to reluctance from the parties to the conflict to participate. Additionally, commitments made by the RSF and SAF during the Jeddah Talks and Humanitarian Forum have not meaningfully improved humanitarian access. The UN continues to lead high-level negotiations on the ground with parties to the conflict and advocate for humanitarian access at the national-, state-, and local levels.

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