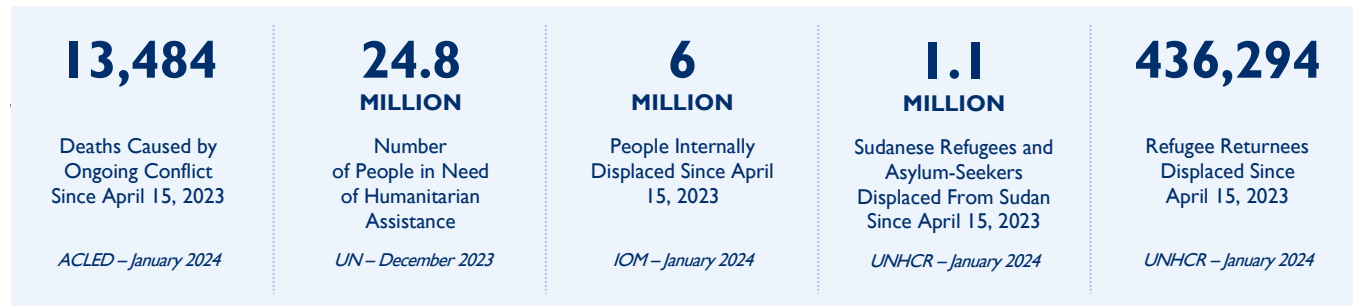


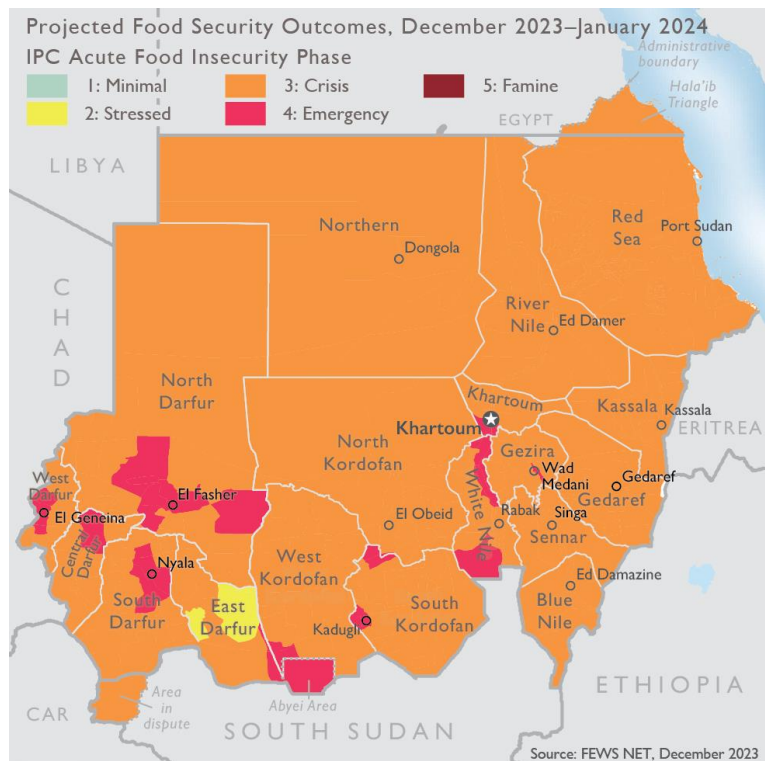
# Sudan – Complex Emergency

JANUARY 30, 2024

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Approximately 9 million people remained internally displaced in Sudan as of December 31, 2023, including more than 6 million newly displaced since April, making Sudan the country with the largest internal displacement crisis in the world, IOM reports.
- Health actors recorded nearly 10,000 suspected cholera cases across 11 states between September 2023 and January 2024. However, WHO reports an overall downward trend in new cases since November, indicating that transmission rates are decreasing in some states.
- More than 6.7 million women and girls will likely require GBV services in 2024, according to the UN. USG partner UNFPA reopened a health clinic in West Darfur in December to provide critical medical and protection services to approximately 300,000 women and girls.



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

### More Than 9 Million People Internally Displaced in Sudan Amid Continuing Clashes

Ongoing conflict in Sudan between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) has created the largest internal displacement crisis in the world, with the country hosting more than 9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs)—including nearly 2.2 million children ages five years and younger—across all 18 states as of December 31, 2023, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. While approximately 3.8 million of these IDPs were displaced prior to the outbreak of hostilities on April 15, 2023, eight months of conflict have displaced an estimated 6 million people—including more than 800,000 IDPs who were secondarily displaced—between April 15 and December 31, 2023. IDPs across Sudan require urgent shelter assistance, as 19 percent—or nearly 335,000 IDP households—were sheltering in informal settlements, such as abandoned buildings, schools, or other public spaces, as of December 31. Approximately 27 percent of IDPs were sheltering in official IDP sites and nearly 50 percent were sheltering with host communities, increasing demands on already-limited resources and heightening the risk of intercommunal tensions, IOM reports.

Conflict between RSF and SAF elements continued to cause civilian casualties and prompt widespread displacement in the Darfur and Kordofan regions during January, the UN reports.<sup>1</sup> SAF airstrikes targeting RSF positions in West Kordofan State's Babanusa locality displaced more than 45,000 people to nearby towns between January 23 and January 28, resulting in 23 civilian deaths and injury to 30 others, local media report. In South Kordofan State, RSF attacks on January 19 displaced approximately 1,500 people in Abassiya locality's Abassiya town to other villages within the locality. Meanwhile, security actors continue to record an uptick in SAF aerial bombardments in Darfur, with SAF forces attacking several RSF positions in North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur states since mid-January. SAF airstrikes in North Darfur's Kutum locality resulted in 12 deaths and injury to 15 others on January 12, while repeated SAF bombardments in South Darfur's capital city of Nyala had resulted in three deaths, injury to nine others, and the displacement of an unconfirmed number of people as of January 10.

Despite insecurity-related challenges, a USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partner resumed operations in South Darfur's Nyala Teaching Hospital in mid-January, providing lifesaving health services in the hospital's Malnutrition Stabilization Center. Since the resumption of USAID/BHA-supported health services, the stabilization center has admitted eight malnourished children for treatment. Nyala Teaching Hospital is the only operational malnutrition treatment center providing inpatient care for malnourished children in Nyala town.

### Nearly 10,000 Suspected Cholera Cases Recorded Amid Limited Health Services

The Government of Sudan Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) and the UN World Health Organization (WHO) recorded nearly 10,000 suspected cholera cases and 275 associated deaths across 11 states between September 26, 2023, and January 20, 2024. While this caseload represents a more than 20 percent increase from the approximately 8,200 cases recorded between September 26 and December 20, WHO reports an overall downward trend in new cases since November, indicating that transmission rates are decreasing in some states. However, cholera has recently spread to new states, with health

<sup>1</sup> 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.

actors recording the first suspected cases in River Nile State in January. To mitigate the spread of new cases, USG partners the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and WHO are supporting the detection and treatment of cases and implementing emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) response activities, as cholera is closely linked to the degradation of WASH services. In addition, the FMoH and WHO completed a USAID/BHA-funded oral cholera vaccination campaign in Gedaref and Gezira states during November and in one locality in Khartoum State in December, reaching more than 2.2 million people, WHO reports.

More than 70 percent of health facilities in conflict-affected areas were non-operational as of January 25 due to armed group attacks, insecurity, and medical supply shortages, constraining the health sector’s capacity to respond to cholera outbreaks, as well as other infectious disease outbreaks, such as dengue, malaria, and measles, the UN reports. Health actors recorded more than 60 attacks on health care infrastructure and staff in Sudan—including nearly 40 attacks that affected facilities and more than 20 that affected personnel—between April and December 2023, resulting in 34 deaths and injury to nearly 40 others, WHO reports.

### **More Than 6.7 Million Women and Girls May Require GBV Services in 2024**

More than 6.7 million women and girls in Sudan are expected to need gender-based violence (GBV) services in 2024—a nearly 60 percent increase from the number in need in 2023—according to the 2024 Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan released on December 21, 2023. All forms of GBV, including exploitation, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence, have increased since the outbreak of hostilities on April 15, the UN reports. GBV service providers have also reported rising numbers of cases, particularly against IDPs in transit or during conflict-related looting of homes. The UN has also raised concerns over the use of GBV as a weapon of war, including through abductions and forced marriages, particularly by RSF actors and allied armed groups. In addition, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) estimated that nearly 170,000 pregnant women were internally displaced as of December 27, 2023, and lacked access to urgently needed reproductive health services.

Limited specialized services, restricted humanitarian access in conflict-affected states, and a shortage of supplies continue to limit survivors’ access to life-saving GBV and protection services across Sudan, including case management, clinical management of sexual violence, and psychosocial support, the UN reports. Despite these challenges, USG partner UNFPA reopened their sexual and reproductive health clinic in West Darfur States’s Ardamata town in December 2023, which was closed after armed actors stormed and looted the facility in November 2023. The clinic provides critical medical and protection services to approximately 300,000 women and girls, including GBV case management and clinical case management for sexual violence. After UNFPA repaired the facility and replaced supplies and materials, the clinic resumed its full range of support and performed nearly 50 childbirth deliveries in December, UNFPA reports.

## **KEY FIGURES**



**4.8 Million**

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

## **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 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) 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 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, 2023, 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, 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

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support IOM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, and NGO partners to deliver life-saving health care across Sudan, including mobile clinics accessing 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 by providing nutritional supplements and conducting complementary agriculture, food security, health, and WASH activities. Between April 15 and November 30, 2023, 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 critical protection support in Sudan and neighboring countries, including the provision of case management services and safe spaces for survivors. With support from UNICEF, 163,000 women and children had accessed 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, 2023. 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.

### WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM continue to support IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, and NGOs to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure for crisis-affected communities across Sudan to reduce the spread of infectious diseases, such as cholera and measles. With USG and other donor support, UNICEF provided safe drinking water to an estimated 5.8 million people across Sudan between April 15 and November 30, 2023.

To prevent the spread of cholera, USG partners are also supporting affected and at-risk populations with emergency WASH supplies, such as chlorine for water purification, hygiene kits, and water containers.

## 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, 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, 2023, and November 7, 2023—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, 2023, 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 29. 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.

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## 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)