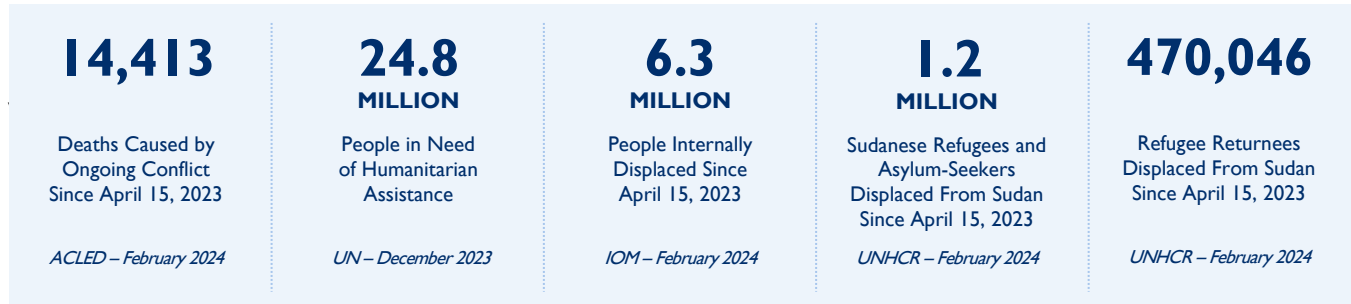


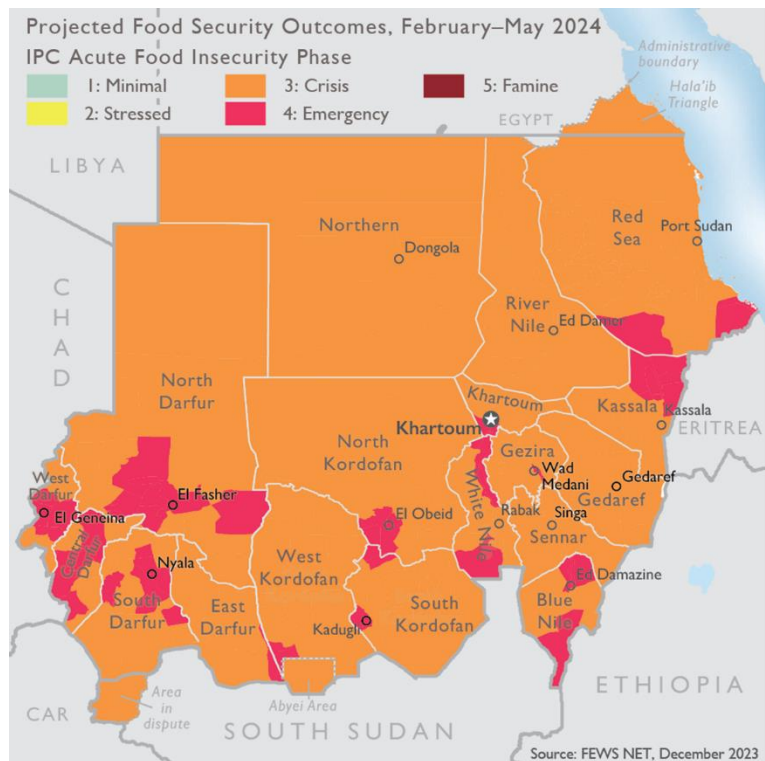
Sudan – Complex Emergency

FEBRUARY 27, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Access challenges, including bureaucratic impediments and insecurity, continue to hamper humanitarian assistance delivery across Sudan. In late-February, the GoS prohibited relief actors from using the Chad–Sudan border for cross-border operations, hindering efforts to deliver emergency relief supplies to vulnerable populations.
- Ten months of conflict between the RSF and SAF have resulted in widespread protection violations in Sudan, according to a UN report released on February 23.
- Prices for livestock and staple foods—including goats, groundnut, sorghum, and wheat—increased up to 12 percent from December to January, exacerbating already high levels of food insecurity, USAID/BHA partner WFP reports. WFP reached more than 730,000 people across the country with life-saving cash, food, and nutrition assistance during January.



¹ FY 2024 funding for the Sudan Response will be included in future products when publicly announced. 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

Access Challenges Continue to Hamper Humanitarian Assistance Delivery

Significant access challenges—including bureaucratic impediments, looting, insecurity, and poor network and phone connectivity—continue to negatively affect the delivery of humanitarian assistance across Sudan. In late February, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)-aligned Government of Sudan (GoS) prohibited UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) from utilizing the Chad–Sudan border for cross-border humanitarian operations, alleging the route was being used to facilitate military assistance. The decision forced the UN to halt all cross-border operations from Chad, hindering efforts to reach vulnerable populations with emergency assistance, particularly in Sudan’s Darfur region, which is expected to face some of the worst food security outcomes in the country during the May-to-October lean season.² Relief actors had increasingly relied on cross-border operations to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance across Sudan, as all cross-line movements within the country have been suspended since mid-December 2023 due to bureaucratic impediments, the expansion of conflict into eastern Sudan, and persistent insecurity. ACAPS, which measures and compares the severity of humanitarian crises globally, gave Sudan the highest score on its five-point scale for access constraints, indicating the most extreme limitations on humanitarian access. The U.S. Department of State released a statement on February 23 condemning obstructions by both SAF and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) elements and urging the parties to heed their commitments to facilitate humanitarian assistance.

Ongoing telecommunication disruptions have also continued to affect humanitarian operations across Sudan. El Sudani—the state-owned service provider—was able to partially restore telecommunication and internet networks across Sudan on February 13, ending the country-wide blackout that began on February 2, international media report. However, network disruptions persist and continue to affect local responders and relief efforts in hard-to-reach areas of the country. U.S. Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that the outages hindered communication with community networks and disrupted the registration of refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan.

UN Report Details Widespread Protection Violations in Sudan

Conflict between the RSF and SAF since April 15, 2023, has resulted in extensive protection violations against civilians—including detention, forced recruitment of children by armed groups, killings, and sexual violence—according to a February 23 report from Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Both the RSF and SAF have conducted indiscriminate attacks using heavy weaponry in densely populated areas, including in sites sheltering internally displaced persons (IDPs), that have resulted in civilian deaths, the destruction of civilian infrastructure, and widespread displacement. The conflict had resulted in more than 14,000 deaths as of February 23, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED); however, the actual figure is likely much higher, with international media reporting that RSF attacks in West Darfur’s capital city of El Genina resulted in 15,000 deaths in a single incident in November. Overall, RSF and allied Arab militias carried out at least ten attacks against civilians in El Genina between May and November 2023, including ethnically motivated attacks that primarily targeted the Masalit community and resulted in thousands of deaths, according to the UN report. The report also highlighted gender-based violence (GBV) concerns, and OHCHR documented 58 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, affecting 118 individuals, between April 15 and December 15, 2023. In more than 80 percent of incidents, survivors identified the perpetrators as men in RSF uniforms or as men affiliated with the RSF. In two incidents, survivors identified

² Darfur region comprises the following states: Central Darfur, East Darfur, North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur.

SAF members as the perpetrators. Most incidents occurred in Khartoum State and the Darfur and Kordofan regions.³

Protection violations have continued to affect civilians, and armed clashes displaced more than 136,000 people in the first two weeks of February alone, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In total, ten months of conflict between the RSF and SAF have displaced nearly 6.3 million people within Sudan and prompted an additional 1.7 million people to seek safety in neighboring countries as of mid-February, according to IOM and UNHCR.

Staple Food Prices Rise in January Amid Already High Levels of Food Insecurity

Prices for livestock and staple foods—including goats, groundnut, sorghum, and wheat—significantly increased in January 2024 compared to December 2023 due to conflict-related below-average agricultural production and the depreciation of the Sudanese currency, according to the UN World Food Program’s (WFP) January market monitoring report. The price of wheat increased by approximately 5 percent between December and January, representing a more than 100 percent increase since the outbreak of conflict on April 15, 2023. Between December and January, the national average price of goats increased by nearly 8 percent, and the price of groundnut increased by more than 12 percent. Sorghum prices increased by approximately 9 percent in the same one-month period. Despite a lapse in reporting since February 2023, the inflation rate is estimated to remain above 500 percent given the significant surge in prices for goods and services.

The recent November-to-January millet and sorghum harvest and the March-to-April wheat harvest are both expected to produce significantly below-average yields in conflict-affected areas due to limited access to cropland and the high cost of agricultural inputs. As a result, prices of staple foods are likely to remain atypically high in the harvest season and will likely further rise during the post-harvest period, according to a February UN Food and Agriculture Organization and WFP report. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) projects food security will likely further deteriorate in the coming months due to the expansion of fighting in December 2023 into parts of central and eastern Sudan, the country’s most important regions for crop production. An estimated 17.7 million people across Sudan were expected to face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between October 2023 and February 2024 due to below-average agricultural production, high prices of essential goods, ongoing conflict, and widespread displacement.⁴ Without sustained food assistance, households in conflict-affected parts of the country, including Khartoum State’s Omdurman city and West Darfur’s capital city of El Geneina, are at risk of experiencing Catastrophe—IPC 5—levels of food insecurity during the May-to-October lean season when food is most scarce, FEWS NET reports.⁵

With support from the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) and other donors, WFP continues to provide life-saving cash, food, and nutrition assistance across Sudan, reaching nearly 730,000 people during January. More than 300,000 people received in-kind food assistance, and approximately 216,000 people received cash-based assistance, in six states. WFP also provided nutrition

³ Kordofan region comprises the following states: North Kordofan, South Kordofan, and West Kordofan.

⁴ 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.

⁵ IPC Phase 5 is referred to as “Catastrophe” when classifying a household and “Famine” when classifying an area. Famine conditions occur when at least 20 percent of the population in a given area face an extreme lack of food; the Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence, measured by weight-for-height z-score, exceeds 30 percent and the mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 individuals per day.

support to approximately 32,000 children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition. In addition, WFP has collaborated with USG partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and other relief actors to provide assistance to people in hard-to-reach areas of Khartoum State and the Darfur and Kordofan regions, as well as those newly displaced in Gedaref and Kassala states.

KEY FIGURES



6.5 Million

People reached with WFP food assistance between the onset of the crisis on April 15 and January 31



2.2 Million

People reached with oral cholera vaccines in Gedaref and Gezira in November and December 2023 by UNICEF and WHO



5.4 Million

Children screened for malnutrition by USG partner UNICEF between April 15 and December 31



186,000

Women and children accessed GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response interventions provided by USG partner UNICEF in 2023

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 6.5 million people across Sudan between April 15, 2023, and January 31, 2024.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and NGO partners to deliver life-saving health care across Sudan, including through mobile clinics accessing hard-to-reach areas. USAID/BHA partners provide essential medicines and other supplies to health facilities and train health workers to address critical 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 December 31, UNICEF screened 5.4 million children ages five years and younger for malnutrition and admitted more than 313,000 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, 186,000 women and children accessed GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response interventions in 2023. Additionally, UNFPA-supported mobile clinics provided health and GBV prevention and

response services to more than 73,000 IDPs and host community members across eleven states between April 15 and February 5. USAID/BHA also supports the UN Mine Action Service to provide critical mine risk awareness information for populations residing in or returning to conflict-affected areas potentially impacted by explosive remnants of war.



5.9 Million

People in Sudan provided with safe drinking water by USG partner UNICEF between April 15 and December 31

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 5.9 million people across Sudan between April 15 and December 31. 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

- On April 11, 2019, following a civilian uprising due to fuel shortages, high bread prices, and other economic issues, Sudanese military officials overthrew President Omar al-Bashir, resulting in a civilian-led transitional government under Abdalla Hamdok as Prime Minister; however, subsequent political uncertainty contributed to heightened humanitarian, protection, and security concerns. Following political unrest, the military took over the transitional government on October 25, 2021, arresting civilian leadership and sparking widespread protests. On November 21, 2021, Hamdok was reinstated as Prime Minister under a power-sharing agreement with SAF military leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan before resigning on January 2, 2022. On December 5, 2022, military leaders and representatives of civilian pro-democracy parties signed a preliminary agreement for a two-year transitional civilian government.
- 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. In addition, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee activated a system-wide scale-up to mobilize operational capacities and resources for Sudan from August 29, 2023, to February 28, 2024. However, bureaucratic impediments, insecurity, and limited funding continue to hinder relief agencies' ability to respond.
- 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, which did not hold, 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. The second round of negotiations—convened between October and November 2023—concluded without a ceasefire

agreement, though both parties reaffirmed their obligations under the May 11 Declaration. Parties have not upheld the declaration, and conflict-related protection violations against civilians have continued.

- After the second round of negotiations in Jeddah, RSF and SAF actors 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. As of February 27, the forum had convened only once—on November 12, 2023—despite UN efforts for additional meetings. RSF and SAF commitments made during the Humanitarian Forum have not improved humanitarian access. The UN continues to lead high-level negotiations on the ground with parties to the conflict and advocate for humanitarian access.

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)