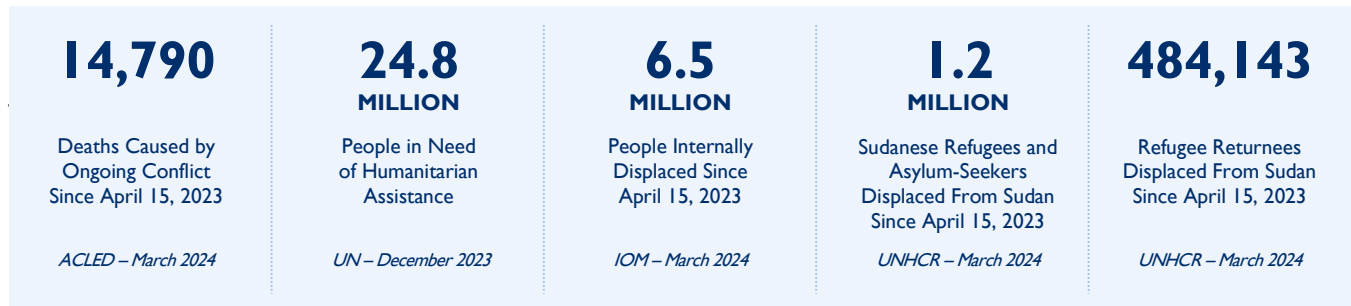


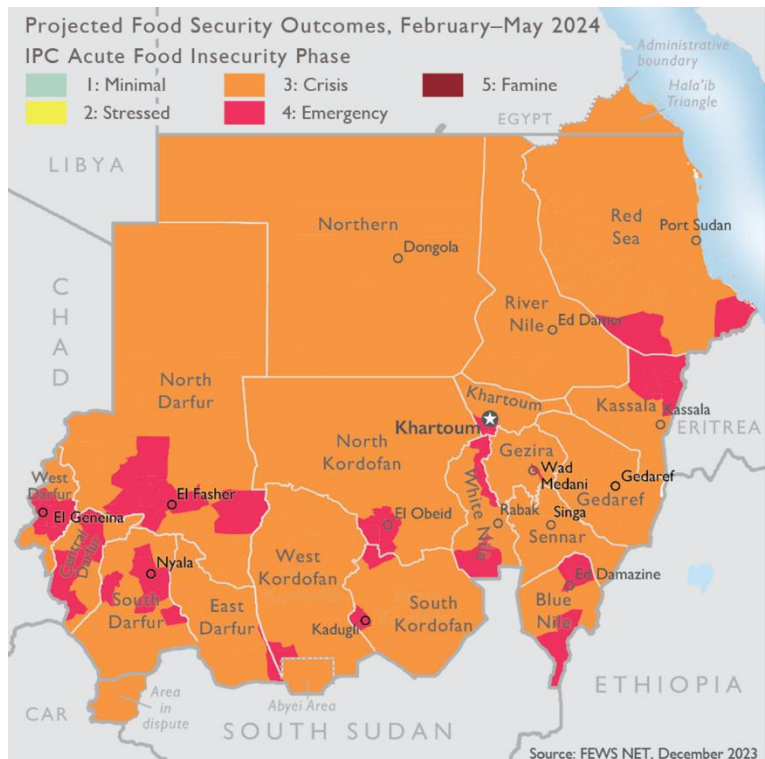
Sudan – Complex Emergency

MARCH 13, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- After forbidding cross-border humanitarian assistance from Chad in late February, the SAF-aligned GoS agreed to allow humanitarian access only through Chad’s Tina border crossing into North Darfur on March 5, the UN reports. However, the GoS continued to deny approval for any cross-border or cross-line assistance into RSF-controlled areas as of mid-March, raising concerns that assistance may not reach most parts of Darfur.
- Ongoing telecommunication disruptions and escalating RSF–SAF clashes in Khartoum prompted more than 200 of the 300 community kitchens in the state to suspend operations as of late February, exacerbating already severe levels of food insecurity in the state.
- The USG announced the appointment of Tom Perriello as U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan on February 26.



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

GoS Authorizes Tina Cross-Border Route From Chad; Access Impediments Persist

After rescinding approval for all cross-border humanitarian operations from Chad through a *note verbale* on February 21, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)-aligned Government of Sudan (GoS) agreed to allow humanitarian cross-border access only through Chad's Tina border crossing into North Darfur State, which is controlled by the SAF-aligned Sudanese Liberation Army, according to a March 5 statement from UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) in Sudan Clementine Nkweta-Salami. The GoS also agreed to allow humanitarian flights to airports in North Darfur State's capital city of El Fasher, North Kordofan State's capital city of El Obeid, and South Kordofan State's capital city of Kadugli and reiterated GoS support for the previously proposed plan to open cross-border operations from South Sudan's Renk town into White Nile State's capital city of Kosti in Sudan. Following the GoS *note verbale*, the UN discontinued all cross-border movements from the Adre crossing on the Chad–Sudan border—the main cross-border access point into West Darfur and Central Darfur states before February 21—and began shifting operations to Tina to facilitate supply deliveries into North Darfur in early March.

Cross-border operations are critical to reach vulnerable populations across the Darfur region, where approximately 9.1 million people are projected to need humanitarian assistance in 2024, according to the UN.² While the opening of the Tina border crossing will help facilitate humanitarian access to populations in North Darfur, the GoS had not approved any access points to RSF-controlled areas as of March 11 and approvals for transporting supplies via Adre remained revoked. Relief actors have expressed concerns that entry to North Darfur does not guarantee assistance will reach other areas of the region, as the GoS Humanitarian Aid Commission has not approved any cross-line convoy movements—deliveries that travel through territory controlled by one conflict party into territory controlled by the other—since mid-December 2023. Notably, vulnerable households in conflict-affected areas in West Darfur's capital city of El Geneina, which has been controlled by the RSF since November 2023, are likely to face Catastrophe—IPC 5—levels of acute food insecurity during the May-to-October lean season, meaning individuals have depleted their last resort assets and could face starvation if they remain unable to access assistance, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports.³ USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partners continue to explore all avenues to reach populations in El Geneina with emergency humanitarian assistance.

In a March 5 call with Commanding General of the SAF Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, USAID Administrator Samantha Power stressed the need to re-establish meaningful cross-border access from Chad and remove bureaucratic impediments to humanitarian operations countrywide. Administrator Power also spoke with RSF General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo on March 7, noting significant obstructions to relief operations in areas under RSF control and urging the RSF to facilitate safe, sustained, and unhindered humanitarian access.

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

³ A Famine—Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 5—classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term classification of Catastrophe—also IPC 5—refers to a household. A household in Catastrophe has an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing Catastrophe, when global acute malnutrition levels exceed 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

Telecommunication Disruptions Prompt More Than 200 Community Kitchens in Khartoum to Shutter Amid Increasing Conflict

An uptick in conflict in Khartoum State and ongoing telecommunication blackouts have hindered local response activities, exacerbating already severe levels of food insecurity in the state, local responders report. As of late February, more than 200 of the 300 community kitchens run by Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs)—Sudanese civilian-led local networks—in Khartoum had suspended operations due to the continued interruption of communication networks, a lack of supplies, and persistent insecurity. ERRs have provided critical food and other life-saving assistance to populations trapped in high-conflict neighborhoods since the start of the crisis in April 2023, as bureaucratic impediments and insecurity have limited access for international humanitarian organizations. The disruption of communication services across Sudan since February 2 has severely constrained this work, as ERRs rely on mobile money transfers to receive funds and require reliable telecommunications services to request funding and coordinate the delivery of assistance. ERRs have also reported challenges due to armed groups looting items and detaining staff; a critical lack of medical supplies; and high prices and limited availability of commodities in markets. The community kitchens' suspensions, coupled with the effects of the ongoing conflict, have further strained access to food for the more than 1.1 million people in Khartoum projected to experience Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity between October 2023 and February 2024.⁴ Even before the suspensions, some households in Khartoum's Omdurman city were already expected to face Catastrophe—IPC 5—outcomes during the May-to-October lean season, FEWS NET reports.

Escalating RSF–SAF clashes in Khartoum State since February, particularly in Khartoum's Bahri and Omdurman cities, have also increased protection risks for civilians and heightened humanitarian needs in the area. Shelling in southern Khartoum's En Nahda neighborhood resulted in the death of seven civilians and injury to at least two others on February 22, and drone strikes in Bahri's El Haj Yousef neighborhood resulted in the death of four civilians and injury to nearly 30 others on February 21, local media report. Additionally, RSF actors began forcibly evacuating residents from Bahri's Akif Mukhtar, Dardouk, Nabta, and Samra neighborhoods during the week of March 3, as RSF entities escalated attacks on nearby Hattab and Kadro neighborhoods. As Dardouk and Samra host a large population of internally displaced persons (IDPs), additional conflict-related displacement threatens to further limit IDPs' access to adequate cash, food, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support, according to local responders in Bahri.

USG Appoints Tom Perriello as Special Envoy to Sudan

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the appointment of Tom Perriello as U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan on February 26. Special Envoy Perriello will coordinate U.S. policy on Sudan and advance efforts to end hostilities between the RSF and SAF as well as other aligned groups, while also advocating for unhindered humanitarian access given persistent restrictions on cross-border and cross-line humanitarian operations and relief actors' movements since the conflict began in April 2023. The appointment of a Special Envoy reflects the priority USG leadership is placing on ending the conflict and preventing any further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis, particularly with the goal to mitigate catastrophic levels of hunger expected in the coming months.

⁴ The 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.

KEY FIGURES



6.5 Million

People reached with WFP food assistance between the onset of the crisis on April 15, 2023 and January 31, 2024



2.2 Million

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



3.7 Million

Children screened for malnutrition by USG partner UNICEF between April 15, 2023 and January 31, 2024



186,000

Women and children accessed GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response interventions through USG partner UNICEF in 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.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (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, 2023 and January 31, 2024, UNICEF screened approximately 3.7 million children ages five years and younger for malnutrition and admitted more than 231,000 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. Additionally, UNFPA-supported mobile clinics provided health and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services to more than 98,200 IDPs and host community members across 11 states in February. 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.



8.4 Million

People in Sudan reached with safe drinking water by USG partner UNICEF between April 15, 2023 and January 31, 2024

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. 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, and a three-month extension of the scale-up was recommended in February. However, bureaucratic impediments, insecurity, and limited funding continue to hinder relief agencies' ability to respond.
- On October 31, 2023, former 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 March 12, 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)