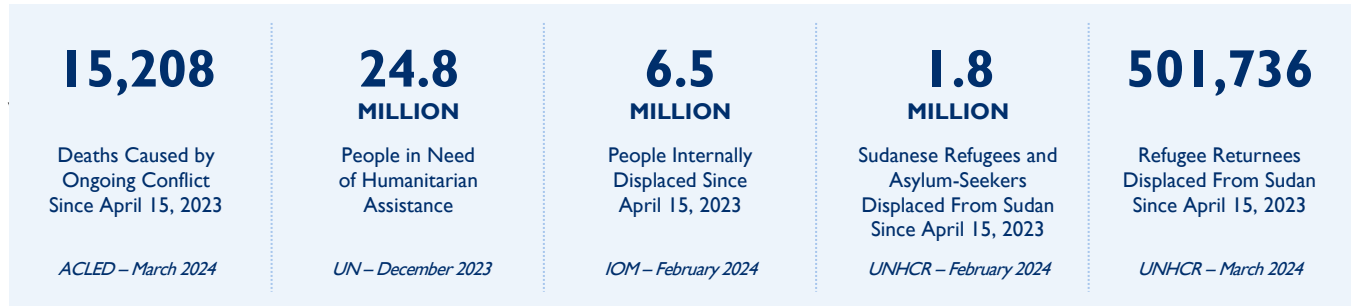


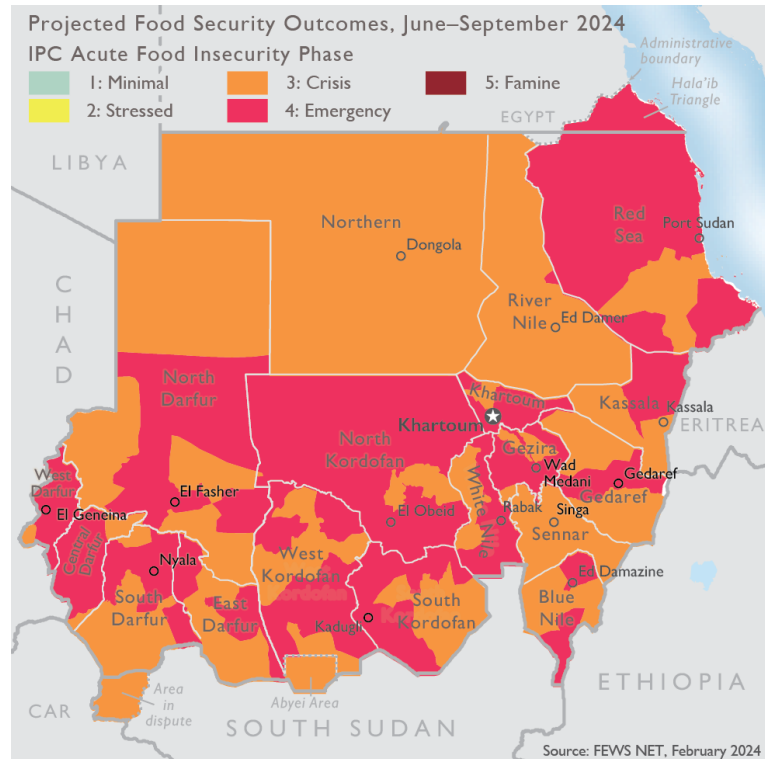
# Sudan – Complex Emergency

MARCH 27, 2024

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- FEWS NET projects large areas of Sudan to experience Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity starting in March, with some households in Khartoum and West Darfur states possibly facing Catastrophe—IPC 5—levels of acute food insecurity. If parties to the conflict further restrict access to food, FEWS NET predicts Famine could emerge in some areas during the lean season.
- Nearly 230,000 children, pregnant women, and new mothers are at risk of hunger-related deaths in the coming months if their nutritional and health needs are not met, the Nutrition Cluster reports.
- USAID/BHA partners continued providing health, nutrition, protection, and WASH services in North Darfur’s El Fasher city despite SAF airstrikes.



## TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Sudan Response in FY 2024

STATE/PRM<sup>1</sup>

**\$47,470,000**

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7*

**Total**

**\$47,470,000**

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### FEWS NET Projects Risk of Famine Should Access Challenges Continue

Food security conditions have worsened across Sudan as of early March and are expected to significantly deteriorate as disruptions in harvesting due to continued fighting prompt an atypically early start of the lean season, now beginning in March instead of in June, according to a Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) February report. Substantial national crop losses due to the expansion of conflict into southeast Sudan; as well as disrupted livelihoods; widespread displacement; exceedingly high food prices; and access challenges, particularly Government of Sudan (GoS)-imposed impediments on cross-border access from Chad and movements into opposition-controlled areas, are contributing to the deteriorating levels of food insecurity. In the most likely scenario, FEWS NET expects large areas of Khartoum State and the Darfur and Kordofan regions, along with parts of Gezira and Kassala states, to experience Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity from March to September.<sup>2</sup> FEWS NET also projects households in some parts of Khartoum and West Darfur, as well as the displaced population more broadly, particularly in hard-to-reach areas of the Darfur region, could deteriorate into Catastrophe—IPC 5—conditions during the lean season. Households experiencing Catastrophe outcomes are expected to increasingly depend on severe-to-extreme negative coping strategies, including begging, the consumption of seeds, migration, near-liquidation of assets, and sale of natural resources. In addition to the most likely scenario, FEWS NET assesses that if armed parties to the conflict further isolate areas, prevent the flow of food, or otherwise restrict population movement in search of food or income, Famine could emerge in parts of West Darfur, Khartoum, and areas of the Darfur region with high concentrations of protracted and often secondarily displaced persons. Populations in these areas already face the most severe access constraints to available food amid high levels of conflict.

Addressing access challenges remains critical for ensuring the sustained delivery of food assistance and mitigating the deterioration of food security conditions in Sudan. Food access across West Darfur continues to be particularly constrained, as insecurity due to ongoing hostilities between the Rapid Security Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and persistent obstructions to humanitarian operations—including the GoS’s decision to restrict cross-border operations through Adre border crossing in Chad—have limited relief actors’ ability to distribute food assistance in the state. Although the Tina border crossing from Chad to North Darfur remained open as of March 26, logistical issues, including distance and poor road conditions, pose serious challenges to the sustained delivery of food assistance. In addition, government and military authorities’ denial of crossline movement requests since December 2023 continues to impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected and hard-to-reach areas in Sudan and may prevent assistance in North Darfur from reaching other parts of the larger Darfur region.

<sup>2</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.

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. 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.

## **Nearly 230,000 Children, Pregnant Women, and New Mothers At Risk of Hunger-Related Deaths in Coming Months**

Nearly 230,000 children, pregnant women, and new mothers are at risk of hunger-related deaths in the coming months if their health and nutritional needs remain unmet, according to the Nutrition Cluster.<sup>3</sup> More than 2.9 million children younger than five years of age in Sudan were acutely malnourished as of February, including 729,000 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Approximately 30 percent of children experiencing SAM—220,000 children—are at risk of hunger-related deaths without improved humanitarian access and increased funding, the Nutrition Cluster reports. The ongoing conflict has severely restricted the availability of food, increased food prices, hindered crop harvesting, and disrupted the supply chain for nutrition treatment commodities across Sudan. USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partner Save the Children Federation reports that pregnant and lactating women are employing negative coping mechanisms such as skipping meals to allow their children to eat and severely restricting the nutrients they receive while pregnant, adversely affecting their health and the health of their babies when born. However, humanitarian organizations face significant difficulties reaching people in need of assistance due to insecurity, bureaucratic impediments, particularly imposed by the GoS, and funding shortfalls for nutrition programming.

## **SAF Increases Airstrikes in El Fasher, Resulting in Casualties and Displacement**

SAF continues to conduct airstrikes on RSF positions within North Darfur's capital city of El Fasher, including within displacement camps, neighborhoods, and markets, according to international media. Between March 15 and 18, the violence resulted in five deaths, including one child, as well as injury to seven people, the UN reports. In addition, approximately 50 households—an estimated 300 people—were displaced from Gashlack Aj Jaish neighborhood to southern locations within El Fasher, resulting in increasingly overcrowded conditions. USAID/BHA partners continued to support the provision of health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services at health facilities in El Fasher, including in Abu Shouk, Al Salam, and Zamzam internally displaced persons (IDP) camps.

## **UNHCR Supports Displaced Persons in White Nile, Kassala, and Gedaref**

More than 40 South Sudanese households—comprising more than 270 people—were displaced from Gezira State's capital city of Wad Medani as a result of insecurity and fighting, arriving in Al Alagaya and Dabit Bosin refugee camps in White Nile State, from March 14 through March 20, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This brings the total number of new arrivals to the two refugee camps in White Nile State to approximately 26,900 people since December 2023, when fighting between the RSF and SAF began in Wad Medani. With State/PRM support, UNHCR continues to facilitate humanitarian assistance and protection services to displaced households in White Nile by supporting the State Ministry of Health and Social Development in maintaining a database for IDPs, registering and enrolling IDPs, and providing documentation support to persons with specific needs. As of March 20, UNHCR had enrolled approximately 93,150 IDPs living with the host community, ensuring that IDPs can more seamlessly access humanitarian assistance and protection services. In addition, in Kassala and Gedaref states, UNHCR provided protection counselling to approximately 140 refugees and asylum-seekers from March 14 to March 20. Refugee and asylum-seekers communicated needing legal aid, livelihood opportunities, medical assistance, resettlement, and shelter support.

<sup>3</sup> The coordinating body for humanitarian nutrition activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

## USG Delegations Visit Sudanese Refugee Sites and Transit Centers in Eastern Chad, Announce Additional Humanitarian Assistance

From March 15 through March 18, a joint delegation with staff from the USAID Mission in Sudan, the USAID Mission in Chad, and the U.S. Embassy in Chad visited eastern Chad to assess humanitarian conditions for Sudanese refugees in the country. The delegation visited USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program's (WFP) logistics hub in Farchana and met with refugees in the Gaga refugee camp and Adre transit site, where WFP provides monthly food assistance to recently arrived Sudanese refugees. In addition, while in Chad on March 20, State/PRM Assistant Secretary Julieta Valls Noyes announced more than \$47 million in humanitarian assistance for the emergency response in Sudan and neighboring countries, including Chad and South Sudan. As of late February, the Government of Chad estimated that more than 560,000 Sudanese refugees had arrived in the country since the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023. The number of arrivals from Sudan at the Adre border crossing increased in early March, with new arrivals reporting leaving the Darfur region due to food insecurity and the scarcity of assistance in their communities. This marks a contrast from refugees who arrived in October and November 2023 who largely reported conflict as the primary reason for displacement. WFP is experiencing breaks in its food assistance pipeline in March, with food assistance commodities expected to be completely depleted from April onwards, leaving the UN agency unable to provide food assistance for refugees and IDPs in Chad, according to WFP.

### 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

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support multiple UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations (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, reaching approximately 728,000 people in January alone.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 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.



## 3.7 Million

Children screened for malnutrition by USG partner UNICEF and other nutrition actors between April 15 and January 31

## 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 January 31, 2023, UNICEF and other nutrition actors screened 3.7 million children ages five years and younger for malnutrition and admitted more than 231,000 children for treatment of SAM in Sudan.



## 186,000

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

## 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 gender-based violence (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 11 states between April 15, 2023 and February 5, 2024. 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 provided with safe drinking water by UNICEF and other WASH actors between April 15 and January 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 and other WASH actors provided safe drinking water to an estimated 8.4 million people across Sudan between April 15, 2023, and January 31, 2024. 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 an initial system-wide scale-up to mobilize operational capacities and resources for Sudan from August 29, 2023, to February 28, 2024, which has since been extended for three additional months. However, bureaucratic impediments and insecurity 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 March 26, 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; however, approvals to move assistance across conflict lines and into opposition-controlled areas are significantly delayed, hindering efforts to scale-up support in the most affected areas.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2024<sup>1,2</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>State/PRM</b>			
Sudan			
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,200,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$15,300,000
Chad			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$17,550,000
South Sudan			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$12,420,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			<b>\$47,470,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2024</b>			<b>\$47,470,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect total publicly announced State/PRM funding as of March 20, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> USG funding for Chad and South Sudan benefiting displaced people from Sudan is also reported in the USAID/BHA Chad Assistance Overview and USG South Sudan Fact Sheet

### 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://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://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://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)