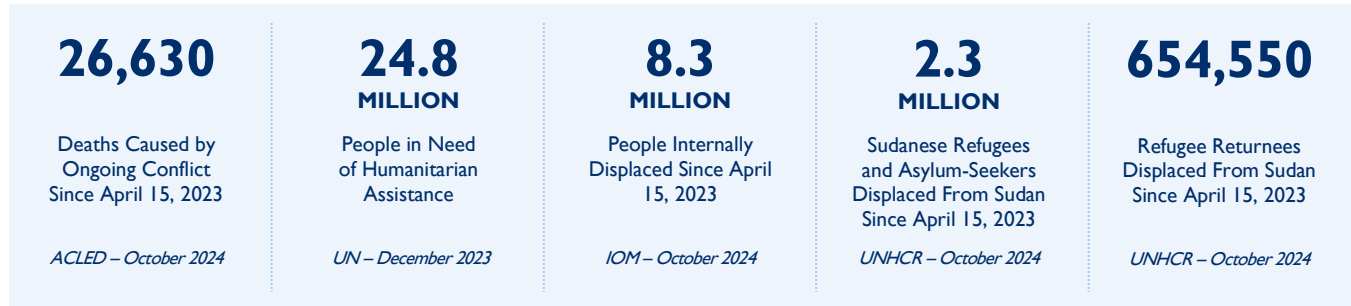


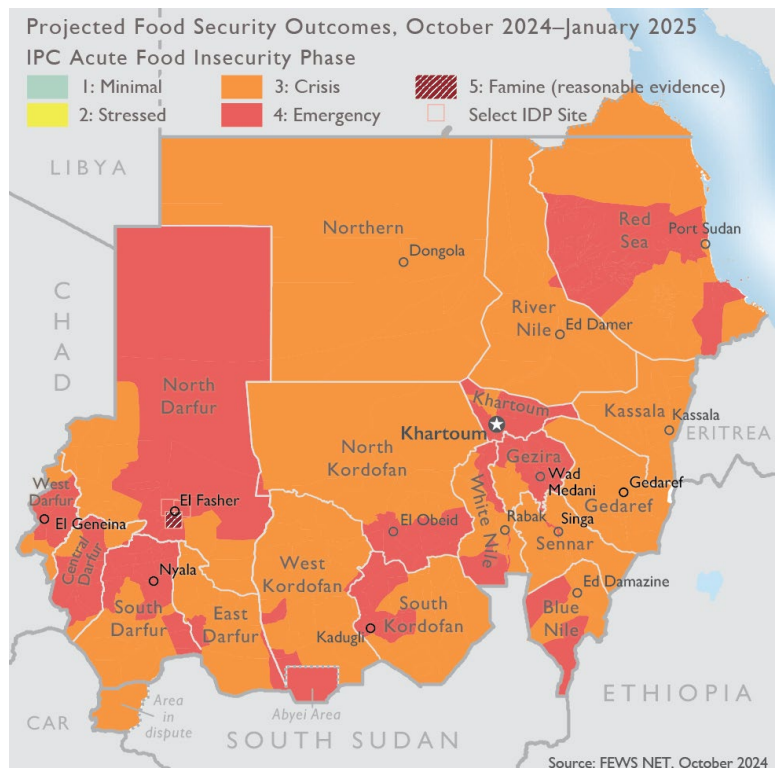
# Sudan – Complex Emergency

OCTOBER 30, 2024

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- RSF attacks on Gezira resulted in at least 141 civilian deaths, injury to more than 200 individuals, and the displacement of approximately 119,400 people from the state from October 20 to 30, according to IOM and local media.
- Ongoing Famine conditions in Zamzam IDP camp and possible Famine conditions in nearby Abu Shouk and Al Salam IDP camps will likely persist through January 2025, FEWS NET reports.
- Conflict incidents resulted in the sudden displacement of an estimated 410,400 individuals from El Fasher between April 1 and October 9, according to IOM.
- Insecurity Insight recorded nearly 470 attacks on health care from April 2023 to September 2024, significantly restricting access to health services.



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **RSF Retaliatory Attacks Displace Nearly 119,400 People From Gezira in Late October**

Following the defection of Rapid Support Forces (RSF) Commander Abu Aglah Keikel to the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) on October 20, RSF elements reportedly launched retaliatory attacks on Gezira State's Tamboul city and at least 30 villages in Um Algura and Sharg Aj Jazirah localities. The attacks resulted in at least 141 civilian deaths, injury to more than 200 individuals, and the displacement of nearly 119,400 people from Gezira between October 20 and 30, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and local media. RSF reportedly committed a series of ethnically motivated crimes and protection violations—including abductions, burning farms, deliberate damage or destruction of crops, sexual violence, and widespread looting—in parts of eastern Gezira, targeting members of the defected RSF commander's ethnic group. In addition, the UN reported at least 25 cases of rape against women and girls, including three medical personnel in Gezira's Sharq Al-Jazira locality and other villages, since RSF escalated hostilities in the state as of October 29.

The hostilities represent a significant spike in displacement from Gezira following four months of relative calm since RSF seized control of the state in July 2024, the UN reports. Displaced households have primarily sought shelter across seven localities in Gedaref State, Kassala State's Halfa Aj Jadeedah, Reifi Nahr Atbara, and Reifi Khashm Elgirba localities, and six localities in River Nile State. Displaced populations require urgent humanitarian assistance, including food, health, and protection services, including child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan Clementine Nkweta-Salami released a statement on October 26 condemning the attacks and violence against women and children and underscoring that attacks against civilians are prohibited under international humanitarian law. The UN and humanitarian organizations, including U.S. Government (USG) partners, are responding to the needs of affected individuals in Gezira and displaced populations and host communities in Gedaref and Kassala. Partners are providing protection services for survivors and unaccompanied children, as well as urgent medical services for affected individuals.

### **Famine Risk Continues to Spread Across Sudan, FEWS NET Reports**

In an October report, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) warned that additional parts of the Darfur region, Khartoum, and South Kordofan may be at risk of facing Famine—IPC 5—conditions.<sup>1 2</sup> Conflict, the aftermath of above-average rainfall and resultant floods during the June-to-September rainy season, and increasing food prices have heightened the risk of Famine in these areas, while heavy rainfall and resultant disease outbreaks, including cholera and malaria, have contributed to worsening malnutrition levels. In the absence of sustained humanitarian access and a scale-up of multi-sector assistance, FEWS NET expects Famine conditions to persist in Zamzam internally displaced person (IDP) camp in the coming months, with the possibility that Famine is ongoing in nearby Abu Shouk and Al Salam IDP camps and in South Kordofan's capital city of Kadugli and Dilling town, as well as the surrounding areas.

<sup>1</sup> 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, ranges from Minimal (IPC 1) to Famine (IPC 5) for acute food insecurity. A Famine classification applies to a wider population, while the term Catastrophe (IPC 5) refers to 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 classified as experiencing Catastrophe, when the global acute malnutrition level exceeds 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

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

Between June and September, one-half of all localities in Sudan faced Emergency—IPC 4—outcomes, indicating that an estimated 20 million people, or more than 45 percent of Sudan’s population, face critical or catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity. However, if hostilities continue to escalate and prevent households from migrating to safer areas in search of food and livelihood opportunities, the resulting increased levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition will likely cause at-risk areas to exceed the Famine threshold, FEWS NET reports. Bureaucratic impediments and access restrictions by SAF and RSF continue to prevent relief agencies from responding in famine-risk areas at scale. Conflict and rainy conditions have further limited humanitarian partners from providing large-scale assistance, exacerbating food and nutrition needs. Despite these constraints, USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partners are working to deliver lifesaving assistance to food-insecure populations as access permits. Predictable, sustained, and unhindered humanitarian access remains vital to prevent conditions from deteriorating further.

### **Clashes Displace More Than 410,000 IDPs From El Fasher Since April 2024**

While North Darfur has remained an epicenter of clashes between RSF and SAF since the onset of conflict in April 2023, IOM recorded a sharp escalation of clashes and resultant displacement beginning in April 2024. Between April 1 and October 9 alone, more than 30 conflict-related incidents triggered the sudden displacement of an estimated 410,400 individuals—including IDPs who were already displaced prior to the escalation and experienced secondary or tertiary displacement—from the locality. More than one-half of the affected IDPs, or an estimated 221,600 individuals, relocated to other areas within El Fasher, while the remaining IDPs relocated to 22 different localities in the Darfur region. Nearly 45 percent of displaced households in North Darfur stayed in IDP camps, followed by 28 percent in host communities and nearly 20 percent in gathering sites or open areas. IOM reported multiple instances of shelling across El Fasher impacting IDP camps, including Abu Shouk; host communities; residential areas; and other public and private buildings during the reporting period.

North Darfur hosted approximately 14 percent—1.5 million individuals—of the total IDPs in Sudan as of October 9, representing the second-highest proportion of IDPs in Sudan following South Darfur, which hosted 1.8 million individuals as of the same date. North Darfur also represents a top state of origin, with 14 percent of IDPs in Sudan originating from the state. As of October 9, nearly 90 percent of IDPs from North Darfur were displaced across the state, with El Fasher hosting 7 percent of the country’s IDPs, representing the second-most common locality of origin. Ongoing clashes will likely continue to trigger displacement within North Darfur and other states, as well as to neighboring countries, according to IOM. In response to elevated needs resulting from displacement, USAID/BHA supports partners in North Darfur and Central Darfur to provide multi-sector assistance, including food, health and nutrition services, multipurpose cash assistance, protection support, shelter assistance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions.

### **Attacks on Health Care System Hinder Access to Essential Services**

Attacks on Sudan’s health care system continue, with relief actors reporting the persistent targeting of health workers and health care facilities, as well as restricted access to critical health services across the country. Between April 15, 2023, and September 30, 2024, Insecurity Insight recorded nearly 470 instances of violence against or obstruction of health care, including 91 incidents that resulted in at least 109 health worker deaths. These incidents largely involved attacks on health workers inside clinics, hospitals, or their homes, with RSF identified as the most common perpetrator. Since January, health worker killings have increased in Gezira, North Darfur, and Sennar states, with particularly high incident numbers recorded in El Fasher in July. During the month, RSF shelling attacks damaged an obstetrics and gynecology hospital supported by Médecins Sans Frontières and resulted in the deaths of nine health

workers in seven separate incidents. More recently, on October 13, RSF launched four shelling attacks in El Fasher, causing the death of one health worker and injury to 14 others. The continued attacks on health care place the lives of health care workers at risk and compromise humanitarian actors' ability to deliver critical medical treatment to patients in need, health actors warn. Despite these constraints, USG partners continue to deliver essential health care for conflict-affected and other at-risk populations across Sudan as security conditions permit, with two USAID/BHA partners maintaining the provision of essential health and nutrition services in Zamzam IDP camp in October.

## KEY FIGURES



**3.1 Million**

People reached with WFP food assistance between January and September 2024



**3.3 Million**

Children under five reached with polio vaccines in eight states during June by UNICEF and other actors



**354,000**

Children screened for malnutrition by UNICEF in August 2024

## 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 UN agencies and NGOs to bolster food security and livelihoods throughout Sudan. USAID/BHA partner 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 provided lifesaving food assistance to an estimated 3.1 million people and cash transfers for food to approximately 1.7 million people across Sudan from January to September. WFP also provided preventative and therapeutic nutrition support to approximately 1 million people, including children and pregnant and lactating women, during the same period. WFP continues to scale up its emergency response in Sudan to avert famine and mitigate the effects of widespread malnutrition.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support 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 nongovernmental organization partners to deliver lifesaving health care for IDPs, refugees, and host community members across Sudan, including through mobile clinics in hard-to-reach areas and displacement sites. USAID/BHA partners provide essential medicines and other supplies to health facilities and train health workers to improve quality of care for conflict-affected populations. In addition, USG partners support reproductive health care provision, as well as messaging efforts that spread awareness of health and hygiene best practices to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. USG partners UNICEF and WHO are jointly leading the cholera response resulting from the ongoing outbreak in 11 states.

### NUTRITION

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 food security,

health, and WASH activities. With USG and other donor support, UNICEF screened nearly 354,000 children ages five years and younger for malnutrition during August, treating more than 24,000 children with severe acute malnutrition during the month. UNICEF also provided counseling services to an estimated 58,500 caregivers for children ages 0–23 months.



**800**

Peopled reached with IOM-supported protection assistance from October 1 to 16

## PROTECTION

USG partners—including IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, and UNICEF—provide conflict-affected and vulnerable people with critical protection support in Sudan and neighboring countries, including through the provision of case management services and safe spaces for survivors. Between October 1 and 16, IOM reached nearly 800 individuals with protection assistance, including child protection and GBV prevention and response interventions. Moreover, between October 13 and 19, UNHCR provided psychosocial support services to more than 100 individuals in Zamzam IDP camp, child protection services to nearly 100 children in El Fasher, and legal counseling support to approximately 100 IDPs and refugees in Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, and Northern states, as well as in the Darfur and Kordofan regions. 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 affected by explosive remnants of war.



**728,300**

People in Sudan provided with safe drinking water by UNICEF in August

## WASH

The USG supports 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 728,300 people and improved sanitation services for approximately 14,600 individuals across Sudan during August. The UN agency also distributed critical WASH supplies—including chlorine tablets and water containers—to more than 1,100 households following the Arba'at Dam collapse in Red Sea State on August 25, which significantly disrupted Port Sudan's water supply. In addition, UNICEF provided WASH supplies to approximately 21,500 flood-affected people in Kassala, Northern, and River Nile states in August. To prevent the spread of cholera during the ongoing rainy season, USG partners are distributing emergency WASH supplies, such as chlorine for water purification, hygiene kits, and water containers, in at-risk areas.

## 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 existing 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 through December 2024. However, bureaucratic impediments and insecurity continue to hinder relief agencies' ability to respond at scale.
- On October 2, 2024, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim, Colleen Crenwelge reissued a declaration of humanitarian need (DHN) in Sudan for FY 2025. 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.
- The USG continues to engage closely with partners, including the African Union, Egypt, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and the UN through the Aligned for Advancing Lifesaving and Peace in Sudan (ALPS) Group initiative launched in August 2024 in Switzerland. The ALPS Group is collectively calling for the parties to conflict to immediately end fighting in Sudan, and for the RSF and SAF to adhere to international humanitarian law and respect human rights and the commitments they made on civilian protection in Jeddah in 2023 and in August 2024 in Switzerland. The ALPS Group also calls for RSF and SAF to allow unhindered and sustained cross-border and crossline humanitarian access to meet the emergency needs of civilians. 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.

## 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.usaid.gov](https://cidi.usaid.gov)
  - 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)