

SUDAN Humanitarian Update 23 November 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of people displaced inside and outside Sudan since mid-April has reached 6.3 million.
- About 5.1 million people have been displaced within Sudan. People have been displaced in 5,473 locations across all 18 states.
- Since mid-April, over 3,130 allegations of severe child rights violations have been reported in the country, with the Darfur region bearing at least half of the cases.
- If the ban blocking the movement of surgical supplies is not lifted, MSF may have to suspend surgical operations at the Turkish Hospital in Khartoum.
- Between April and 15 October, 154 humanitarian partners reached about 4.5 million people with life-saving assistance.
- The revised 2023 Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan appeal is only 34.5 per cent funded as of 23 November.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) erupted in mid-April, an estimated 6.3 million people have fled their homes, taking refuge inside and outside the country, with children representing about half of the people displaced. Sudan is now the country with the largest number of displaced people in the world as prior to the fighting there were 3.7 million people internally displaced in Sudan. It is also now the country with the largest child displacement crisis in the world. ACLED estimates that more than 10,400 people have been killed since the fighting broke out in April, of which about 1,300 killings happened between 30 September and 27 October.

According to the International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM) Sudan Response Situation Update, #32, about 5.1 million people have been displaced within Sudan. People have been displaced in 5,473 locations across all of Sudan's 18 states, an increase of 161 locations in one week. Most of the displaced people have taken refuge in South Darfur (12.28 per cent), River Nile (11.99 per cent), East Darfur (10.59 per cent), White Nile (8.32 per cent), North Darfur (8.31 per cent), and Northern (7.09 per cent) states. According to IOM field teams, about 66.8 per cent of the displaced people (about 3.4 million people) are originally from Khartoum State. IOM also estimates that approximately 2.39 per cent of the people displaced within Sudan are non-Sudanese nationals.

In addition, about 1.2 million people crossed into neighbouring countries since 15 April, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). People have crossed into neighbouring Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Refugee update

Prior to the outbreak of the conflict in mid-April 2023 there were just under 1,445,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Sudan. Many of these were subsequently forced to move, following the conflict outbreak, to other areas within Sudan

which were considered safer, while others crossed into neighbouring countries. UNHCR reports that between 15 April and 14 November, over 195,000 refugees have moved from conflict hotspots to safer areas in Sudan, of whom 70 per cent are children. The majority of refugees who have self-relocated have moved to White Nile (145,200), followed by Red Sea (16,000) and Gedaref (8,600), with the remainder spread across various states. South Sudanese refugees make up the majority of internal movements (161,200), followed by Ethiopian (6,700) and Eritrea refugees (5,000).

Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF) partners continue to deliver multi-sectoral assistance, prioritizing response for those living in camps. As of 31 October, about 848,100 refugees have been reached with at least one form of assistance. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services continue to be provided to ensure access to safe water in refugee camps and settlements, and protection response remains prioritized. Assistance also continues to be delivered in other sectors including education, food security and livelihoods (FSL), health, nutrition, and shelter and non-food items (S/NFIs).

Group of Sudanese and international civil groups sound alarm on atrocities in Sudan

On 15 November, 50 Sudanese and international civil society groups raised the alarm on future atrocities being committed in Sudan, based on the patterns of atrocities that have occurred in the previous seven months of war. They called on the international community to take decisive preventative action to prevent further atrocities from being perpetrated. These civic groups said they have evidence of crimes against humanity, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) being perpetrated against civilians during the conflict. They called on stakeholders to urgently act to ensure the parties to the conflict adhere to obligations under international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL), including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other treaties which Sudan is party to, commitments reflected in the Constitutional Declaration of 2019 and the Juba Peace Agreement of 2020 and commitments both parties made under the Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan.

Spike in severe child rights violations in Darfur

Since the war broke out in April, over 3,130 allegations of severe child rights violations have been reported in the country, with the Darfur region bearing at least half of the cases, reports the UN Children's Agency (UNICEF). Actual numbers are likely much higher. The number of severe child rights violations in Darfur has spiked 550 per cent compared to the verified number in all of 2022. The escalation of conflict in Darfur has exposed children to increased risks of recruitment, sexual violence, killing and maiming. Of all the killing and maiming incidents reported across Sudan, 51 per cent involve children in Darfur. In addition, 48 per cent of the total reported sexual violence cases in Sudan have occurred in Darfur, reports UNICEF.

Disease outbreaks continue to be reported across the country

The country is faced with several disease outbreaks including acute watery diarrhoea/cholera, measles, dengue, and malaria. An estimated 70 per cent of hospitals in states affected by conflict are not working, and the remaining ones are overwhelmed by the influx of people seeking care, many of whom are internally displaced, says the World Health Organization (WHO).

The number of suspected cases of acute watery diarrhoea/cholera continues to increase with cases now reported across eight states. Overall, 3,591 suspected cases (including 115 associated deaths and a case fatality rate (CFR) of 3.2 per cent), have been reported as of 20 November, according to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) and WHO Outbreaks Dashboard. This includes 1,571 suspected cases of cholera and 44 associated deaths in Gedaref; 951 cases and 20 deaths in Aj Jazirah; 424 cases and 26 deaths in Khartoum; 346 cases and eight deaths in South Kordofan; 44 cases and three deaths in Kassala; 113 cases and five deaths in Red Sea; 30 cases and one death in Sennar; and 112 cases and eight deaths in White Nile.



Internal displacement by state (IOM DTM)

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) www.unocha.org

The FMoH reports that the cumulative number of suspected measles cases has reached over 1,100 with active cases in Blue Nile, Aj Jazirah, Sennar and White Nile states, says UNICEF. For 2023, UNICEF targeted 1.7 million children to be vaccinated against measles. As of 31 October, UNICEF and partners were able to vaccinate 727,000 children—only 4 per cent of the target—of whom about 65,000 were vaccinated in October.

Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF) cases are increasing across the country with 5,077 cases and 25 associated deaths reported across three states as of 17 November, according to the FMoH and WHO. This includes 3,176 cases and two deaths in Khartoum; 1,881 cases and 23 deaths in Gedaref; and two cases in Aj Jazirah.

Ban on transportation of lifesaving surgical supplies to Khartoum puts hundreds at risk

On 14 November, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) called on Sudanese authorities to lift the 2 October ban blocking lifesaving surgical supplies from reaching hospitals serving people in areas of Khartoum that are under the control of the RSF, which is likely to cause the deaths of hundreds of patients. According to MSF, the policy is intended to prevent wounded opposition soldiers from receiving treatment however, it also prevents women and children from receiving lifesaving surgeries, including caesarean sections. MSF suspended surgical operations at Bashair Teaching Hospital in mid-October as a result of this ban and may soon have to suspend operations at the Turkish Hospital. Both hospitals are located in southern Khartoum city. Two-thirds of the surgeries carried out in the Turkish Hospital are caesarean sections, where in the past two months alone 170 such surgeries were carried out, without which many women and their newborn babies would have died. Women in labour needing C-sections already have very few options available to them in Khartoum.

The ban not only affects supplies but also the movement of personnel. Humanitarian workers—including medical staff are also being denied travel permits. Not a single member of MSF's medical staff—Sudanese or foreign—has received authorization to travel to southern Khartoum for work since early October. MSF supplies and staff are ready and waiting in Wad Madani, less than 200 kilometres from Khartoum. If MSF is not able to bring in more supplies, the operating theatre in the Turkish Hospital will have to close its doors and women, children, and men in need of lifesaving surgery will be unable to receive treatment.

Conflict and impact on civilians

Conflict between SAF and RSF and inter-communal clashes in the Darfur and Kordofan regions have led to civilian deaths and displacement.

In South Darfur, inter-communal clashes renewed between Salamat and Habaniya tribesmen on 16 November in Buram locality, South Darfur State, reports IOM DTM. This follows previous clashes between the two tribes within the same locality on 11 November. The clashes took place across Nadhif and Marfaeina villages. As a result, 10 people were reportedly killed, an unconfirmed number of people were injured, and 40 people reportedly missing. IOM field teams

Displacement into neighbouring countries since mid-April (UNHCR)



report that about 30,000 people (6,000 families) have been displaced from the conflict areas to Buram town and surrounding villages as well as to As Sunta town in Sunta locality.

In North Darfur, inter-communal clashes erupted between the Zaghawa and Arab Abala tribesmen on 17 November in Rawuaina and Hela Esma villages of Dar As Salam locality, North Darfur State, reports IOM DTM. The incident reportedly occurred over a land dispute. As a result of the clashes, three people were reportedly killed and about 1,100 people were displaced to Abu Zeriga village in Dar As Salam locality, reports IOM DTM. The situation remains tense and unpredictable.

In North Kordofan State, five people were reportedly killed after armed clashes renewed on 13 November between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in El Obeid town, capital of North Kordofan State. Clashes were reported at the El Obeid military headquarters as well as in Al Safa and Al Matar neighbourhoods. No civilian displacement has been reported.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

An array of challenges - insecurity, looting, bureaucratic impediments, poor network and phone connectivity, lack of cash, and limited technical and humanitarian staff on the ground – have been affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance in many parts of the country. Fuel shortages also affect the movement of humanitarian staff and supplies and the generation of power needed for operations (maintaining cold chain storage, supplying water, etc). Despite all these challenges, humanitarian partners continue to provide life-saving assistance to the vulnerable people they can reach.

During the June-September planting season, FAO distributed close to **10,000 metric tonnes (MT) of seeds** to 1 million farming families – or 5 million people. According to a summer season assessment, the total planted area of all crops is estimated to be 15 per cent lower than the annual average during the summer season. In addition to the conflict being an impediment, farmers reported high agricultural input prices (seeds, tools) and a critical lack of inputs, finance and extension services as additional challenges.



Humanitarian response across the country (Humanitarian Response Dashboard)

On 14 November, 2.2 million doses of **oral cholera vaccine** (OCV) from the International Coordination Group on Vaccine Provision (ICG) Secretariat arrived in Port Sudan, with 652,000 more doses expected to be delivered on 20 November, WHO reported. Cholera vaccination campaigns will start in six localities in Gedaref State by the end of November, then in Aj Jazirah and Khartoum states targeting a total of 2.9 million people aged 1 year and above. As of 12 November, close to 3,000 suspected cases of cholera were reported from seven states, according to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) and WHO. In addition, 7.5 million doses of rubella and measles vaccines arrived in Port Sudan, according to UNICEF.

Overall, between April and 15 October 2023, **154 humanitarian partners reached about 4.5 million people with life-saving assistance,** according to the latest Humanitarian Response Dashboard. In addition, 5.5 million people received livelihood assistance during the same period. Prior to the conflict, 2.7 million people were reached with life-saving assistance between January and March. This includes the provision of vital education, health, food, nutrition, water and protection assistance.

For more information on cluster-specific response see the latest Sudan Humanitarian Response Dashboard.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING OVERVIEW

The revised 2023 Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requires US\$2.6 billion to provide life-saving multi-cluster and protection assistance to 18.1 million people in desperate need through the end of this year. According to the Financial Tracking Service, the appeal is only 34.5 per cent funded, with \$883.9 million received as of 22 November, according to the Financial Tracking Service.



Major Donors (Financial Tracking Service)