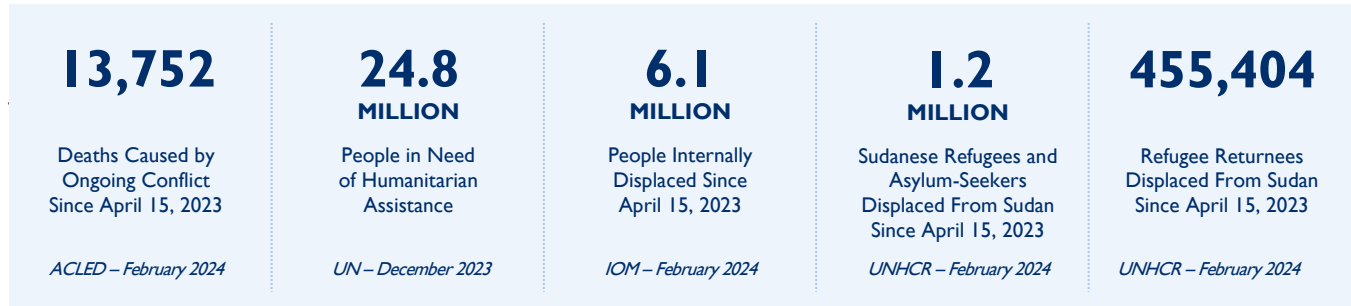


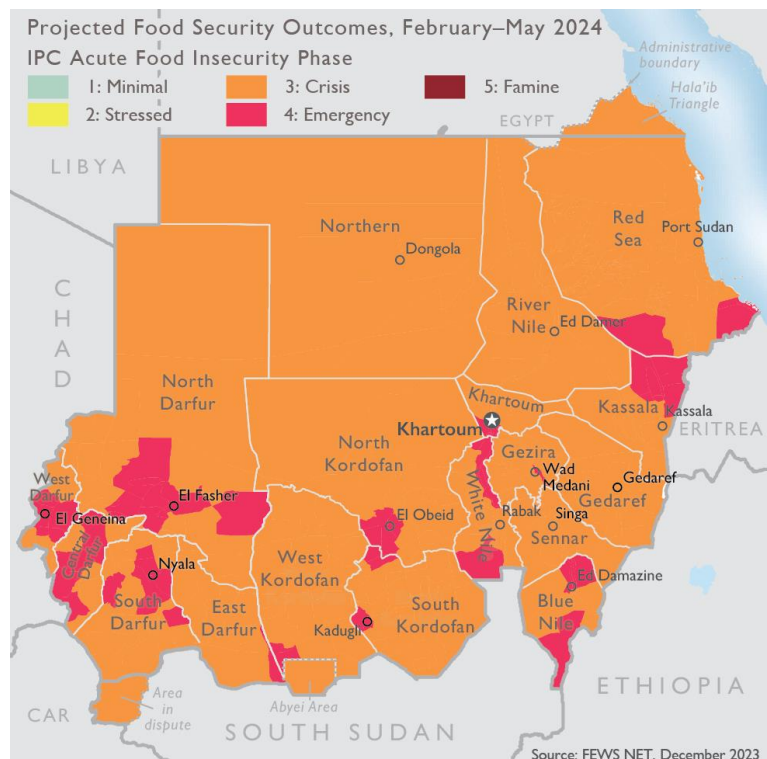
Sudan – Complex Emergency

FEBRUARY 13, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The December expansion of RSF–SAF fighting into southeast Sudan has further disrupted trade and agriculture in the area—a key center of agricultural production—and exacerbated already record-high levels of food insecurity, according to FEWS NET.
- Vulnerable households in El Geneina and Omdurman cities may face Catastrophe—IPC 5—food security conditions during the May-to-October lean season, which could begin early in conflict-affected areas, FEWS NET reports.
- Approximately 14 million children—one-half of all children in Sudan—require humanitarian assistance, according to UNICEF. With USG support, UNICEF continues to provide multi-sector support to children in Sudan and reached more than 5.4 million people with nutrition services in 2023.



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

FEWS NET Projects Catastrophe Conditions in Omdurman and El Geneina

In December 2023, fighting between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) spread into southeastern Sudan, which typically accounts for more than one-half of the country's total annual cereal production, exacerbating already record-high levels of food insecurity. Vulnerable households in Khartoum State's Omdurman city and West Darfur's capital city of El Geneina are now likely to face Catastrophe—IPC 5—conditions during the upcoming lean season, the period when food is most scarce, according to a food security alert issued by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) on February 1.² Widening hostilities have driven atrocities against civilians, the destruction of goods and infrastructure, large-scale population displacement, pervasive looting, and severely limited humanitarian access, all of which have disrupted the country's food supply. As a result, Sudan's 2024 lean season, which typically runs from May to October, could begin early in these areas, FEWS NET reports.

The conflict has resulted in below-average domestic cereal harvests and low food stocks, and insufficient wheat imports. RSF–SAF clashes in and around Gezira State's capital city of Wad Medani in December, which subsequently expanded into parts of Sennar, South Kordofan, and White Nile states in January, have interrupted the November-to-January sorghum and millet harvest in southeastern Sudan, worsening already below-average expectations for the national cereal harvest. The fighting also interrupted the cultivation of winter wheat in Gezira, which typically produces up to 50 percent of the country's wheat, and damaged critical irrigation infrastructure. The expected reduction in domestic wheat production following the recent clashes would compound already-large import deficits resulting from declining government revenue and supply chain shocks. While Sudan typically relies on imports to meet up to 85 percent of annual wheat consumption, total wheat imports in 2023 reached only 50 percent of typical levels. Widespread looting and the destruction of markets and stores in conflict-affected areas have also threatened the cereal stocks of households and traders, FEWS NET reports.

Increased and sustained humanitarian food assistance is essential to avoid worst outcomes, according to FEWS NET; however, insecurity-related and bureaucratic challenges—including the proliferation of checkpoints and delayed travel approvals—have impeded the delivery of aid to vulnerable populations across Sudan. Expedited approvals for relief actors to cross conflict lines and assurances of safe passage for both aid and commercial trade flows are critical to prevent food insecurity from worsening during the lean season. On February 2, the UN World Food Program (WFP) called on parties to the conflict to provide immediate guarantees for the safe and unimpeded delivery of food assistance to conflict-affected areas of Sudan, noting that the UN agency is currently only able to provide regular food assistance deliveries to one in ten people facing Emergency—IPC 4—levels of food insecurity in Sudan due to ongoing security threats, roadblocks, and demands by armed groups for fees and taxation.

14 Million Children in Sudan Require Humanitarian Assistance

Following ten months of conflict between the RSF and SAF, approximately 14 million children—one-half of all children in Sudan—require humanitarian assistance, as food insecurity, protection violations, and widespread displacement continue to drive record levels of need, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports. More than 3 million children have been internally displaced since April 15, 2023, in addition to 2 million children

² 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.

displaced in previous crises, representing the largest number of internally displaced children in any country globally. While children continue to face conflict-related protection violations—including child abuse and exploitation, family separation, forced recruitment by armed groups, and gender-based violence—the crisis has also destroyed essential infrastructure, including health facilities and schools, further hindering children’s access to critical services. More than 4.7 million people are expected to require nutrition assistance in 2024, including approximately 710,000 children expected face severe acute malnutrition (SAM), according to the Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) released on December 31, 2023. This figure represents the highest number of people in need of nutrition assistance ever recorded in Sudan.

Notably, a rapid nutrition and mortality assessment conducted by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in North Darfur State’s Zamzam internally displaced person (IDP) camp in January found that nearly 25 percent of children screened were experiencing acute malnutrition, with seven percent of children ages five years and younger experiencing SAM. The levels of malnutrition surpass the UN World Health Organization’s (WHO) emergency threshold of 10 percent for global acute malnutrition. USAID/BHA continues to support an NGO partner to provide health, nutrition, protection, and WASH services at five facilities in the camp, including a stabilization center that offers nutrition interventions in Zamzam camp. Services include community-based screenings to identify and treat malnourished children, counseling on infant and young child feeding best practices, outpatient therapeutic programs, and targeted supplementary feeding programs.

In addition, USG partner UNICEF screened more than 5.4 million children for malnutrition in 2023 and admitted more than 313,000 children with SAM for treatment through more than 1,600 outpatient therapeutic programs and 50 mobile clinics. Following the RSF’s takeover of Wad Medani in December, which displaced more than 500,000 people, UNICEF directed mobile clinics and nutrition assistance to states receiving large numbers of IDPs, including in Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kessala, Red Sea, and Sennar states. Additionally, UNICEF screened more than 264,000 children in December 2023, including more than 25,000 children ages five years and younger in North Darfur.

Telecommunications Outages Across Sudan Interrupt Services and Threaten Aid Delivery

Internet and communication network outages across Sudan began on February 2 and remained ongoing as of February 11, leaving an estimated 65 percent of the country without network access and disrupting banking activities and tax and customs collection services at ports, international media report. Conflict-affected populations identified to receive humanitarian cash assistance depend on internet connectivity to receive mobile cash transfers from relief agencies; as such, the ongoing telecommunications blackouts may limit relief actors’ ability to reach those in need of assistance, according to a USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) nongovernmental organization (NGO) partner. The outages also increase the threat of protection violations against civilians and restrict the ability of civilians to report incidents, identify perpetrators, and report their physical condition. As of February 5, NGO partners were using USAID/BHA-funded emergency telecommunications equipment installed by WFP in eastern and central Sudan, including in Red Sea State’s capital city of Port Sudan, to maintain partial operational ability until networks are restored.

KEY FIGURES



4.8 Million

People reached with WFP food assistance between the onset of the crisis in mid-April and early December 2023



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 accessing GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response interventions provided by 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 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 4.8 million people across Sudan between April 15 and early December 2023.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), WHO, and NGO partners to deliver life-saving health care across Sudan, including mobile clinics accessing hard-to-reach areas. USAID/BHA partners provide essential medicines, support health facilities, and train implementing partners to address critical health 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 SAM 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, 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.



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, 2023. 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 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.
- 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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)