

Sudan – Complex Emergency

MARCH 5, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>43.8 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of Sudan</p> <p><i>UN – June 2020</i></p>	<p>13.4 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – January 2021</i></p>	<p>2.5 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – January 2021</i></p>	<p>2.2 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in the Darfur Region</p> <p><i>UNHCR – July 2020</i></p>	<p>1.1 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Sudan</p> <p><i>UNHCR – January 2021</i></p>
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- The 2021 Sudan HRP indicates that 13.4 million people will require humanitarian assistance during the year, representing the largest estimated response needs in more than a decade.
- Staple cereal prices were more than six times higher than the five-year average in February, contributing to limited purchasing power and a larger population facing acute food insecurity than in recent years.
- Relief actors—including USG partners—are providing multi-sector assistance to IDPs in West Darfur, including food assistance to 67,000 IDPs sheltering in El Geneina town.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Sudan Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$128,017,726
	State/PRM ²	\$17,440,000
Total		\$145,457,726

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

¹USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
²U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Humanitarian Actors Anticipate 2021 Needs to be Highest in a Decade

An estimated 13.4 million people—approximately 30 percent of Sudan’s population—are projected to require multi-sector assistance in 2021, according to the Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) released by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on February 21. The number of people in need in 2021 increased by 4.1 million people since 2020, marking the highest number of people requiring assistance in 10 years.

The 2021 HRP requests \$1.9 billion to support 8.9 million of the most vulnerable people across the country, representing a 46 percent increase from the \$1.3 billion requested in 2020. The HRP prioritizes life-saving, multi-sector assistance to support response readiness for recurring conflict, flooding, and infectious disease outbreaks. Of the total funding requested, \$880 million is required for programs to support populations facing life-threatening conditions during the year, while additional funding is needed to support other critical humanitarian programs, including cross-cutting protection activities. The increased funding request reflects growing humanitarian needs in previously inaccessible areas under the control of armed groups in Darfur Region, as well as Blue Nile and South Kordofan states. In 2020, relief actors reached approximately 650,000 people in Jebel Marra—a mountainous region encompassing parts of Central Darfur, North Darfur, and South Darfur states—for the first time in 10 years. The plan also includes the growing number of vulnerable and at-risk populations in eastern and central Sudan experiencing increasing food insecurity and exposure to infectious diseases due to the economic crisis and the devastating floods in 2020.

Despite compounding crises in 2020, humanitarian agencies provided life-saving assistance to more than 8.8 million people across 170 of Sudan’s 190 localities during the year. Humanitarian organizations scaled up critical assistance despite operational challenges posed by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the persistent economic crisis. While the amount of funding for humanitarian operations in 2020 reached the highest level since 2011, increased humanitarian needs outpaced financial support and resulted in a larger funding gap than in 2019.

Increasing Food Prices Contribute to High Food Assistance Needs

Rising food prices amidst the ongoing macroeconomic crisis are contributing to reduced household purchasing power and atypically widespread acute food insecurity during the post-harvest period, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Overall food assistance needs in Sudan will remain greater than during recent years through at least September 2021, FEWS NET reports. In February, prices for key cereals remained more than six times higher than the five-year average and 200 percent higher than in February 2020. Meanwhile, the Government of Sudan (GoS) Central Bureau of Statistics reported an annualized inflation rate of 269 percent in December 2020, up from 254 percent the previous month. On February 21, the GoS devaluated the SDG per the official exchange rate used by commercial banks, from 55 SDG per USD to 375 SDG per USD. The revised official exchange rate more closely aligns with the parallel market rate of 385 SDG per USD, up from 260 SDG per USD in November; FEWS NET anticipates that the policy adjustment is likely to stabilize prices through at least March and will ease financial constraints that limited the humanitarian response.

Seven regions of Sudan declared states of emergency following violent protests against rising food prices, according to international media. Officials in Darfur Region and North Kordofan, West Kordofan, and Sennar states had imposed curfews and closed schools in 10 cities as of February 16, and media sources report instances of looting and burning buildings and stealing food from markets and shops.

Relief Actors Provide Assistance to Recently Displaced IDPs in El Geneina

Multiple incidents of intercommunal conflict in El Geneina locality in mid-January and persistent insecurity had displaced or contributed to the secondary displacement of approximately 169,500 people in and around El Geneina town as of February 18, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM); an estimated 120,400 people remained displaced across more than 80 congested gathering sites as of February 25, according to humanitarian organizations. Insecurity and related protests inhibited road access to the area for approximately three weeks following the initial clashes, and prompted the temporary suspension of UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flights to El Geneina. Key roads reopened for the movement of humanitarian supplies and personnel on February 7 following a negotiated agreement between the protestors and a high-level delegation from the capital city of Khartoum, the UN reports.

As of mid-February, relief actors had provided one-month food rations to more than 67,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in El Geneina town, and were providing health and nutrition services to more than 31,000 children ages five years and younger in 15 IDP gathering points in the town. Based on nutrition screenings of more than 8,900 children ages five years and younger in IDP gathering points, relief workers identified 53 cases of severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—and 356 cases of moderate wasting—a serious form of malnutrition—and admitted the patients for treatment. Overall, more than 63,000 IDPs had accessed health services through 16 temporary primary health centers and eight mobile clinics as of February 16, while approximately 50,000 IDPs were receiving 520,000 liters of safe drinking water per day as of mid-February. Furthermore, relief actors repaired four water pumps and installed water storage tanks with the capacity of 2,000 liters at three IDP gathering sites. Through the IOM Rapid Response Fund, USAID/BHA is supporting the delivery of 2,000 relief commodity kits via a national non-governmental organization (NGO). Additionally, relief actors distributed shelter materials and relief commodity kits to nearly 37,100 IDPs sheltering at 20 gathering points in El Geneina.

Ongoing humanitarian response efforts aim to improve identified gaps in services at gathering points; as of February 8, many gathering points lacked latrines and other water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, increasing the risks of communicable diseases, according to the UN. Limited privacy was also threatening safety and security for women, girls, and boys sheltering at gathering sites. The UN estimates that \$30 million is required to provide multi-sector assistance to displaced populations in El Geneina.

Intercommunal Conflict Displaces 15,000 People in South Darfur's Gereida

As of February 8, intercommunal conflict in South Darfur's Gereida locality had displaced approximately 15,000 people in Dagama, Dika, Gereida, Tuel, and Tulus towns, according to the UN. On February 4, a joint interagency assessment of nearly 1,400 IDPs from Gereida sheltering in the Majok area, east of Nyala town, identified key food, shelter, relief commodity, and WASH needs. New IDPs in Nyala and Tulus reportedly have access to health, nutrition, and WASH services and health partners have vaccinated all IDP children ages five years and younger against polio; however, additional support is needed in locations where IDPs are sheltering. On February 8, humanitarian agencies distributed hygiene kits, soap, and water containers to 900 IDPs in the Dereige and Haj Alnour areas in Nyala.

Armed actors attacked Gereida on March 1 and 2, resulting in five deaths and injuries to 26 other people; joint forces intervened to disperse the attackers, according to media reports. Wounded individuals are seeking treatment at Gereida Hospital, while health actors have transferred critical cases

to Nyala for further treatment. The attack also resulted in the destruction of an unknown number of homes in Gereida. The attacks prompted a USAID/BHA partner to evacuate some staff members from Gereida.

USG Partners Provide Assistance to More Than 61,000 Ethiopian Refugees

More than 61,000 Ethiopians had sought shelter in eastern Sudan's Gedaref and Kassala states as of February 16, following the outbreak of conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray Region in November 2020 between the Tigray People's Liberation Front and the Ethiopian National Defense Forces. State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in coordination with the GoS, had facilitated the relocation of nearly 16,700 refugees from the entry transit points of Hamdayet and Village 8 to Gedaref's Tunaydbah settlement as of mid-February. Due to the new arrivals, the Um Rakuba site, also in Gedaref State, has reached its maximum capacity of approximately 20,000 people. Humanitarian actors continue to provide multi-sector assistance to Ethiopian refugees with U.S. Government (USG) and other donor support; overall, relief agencies had established nearly 4,000 shelters, more than 600 latrines, 64 water points, 22 health facilities, and three food distribution centers to help support the basic needs of Ethiopian refugees as of February 16. The refugee camp and settlement are located on black cotton soil, which will complicate access to the sites during the rainy season. Site planners and engineers are working to develop mitigation strategies to ensure continuity of services during this period.

Blue Nile also received approximately 7,000 asylum-seekers in January and February who fled renewed conflict in Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz Region, according to UNHCR. Many of the new arrivals have entered Sudan at remote locations along the border, with limited or no basic services in surrounding areas. UNHCR and partners had reached 1,000 Ethiopian asylum-seekers in Blue Nile with assistance as of February 24; the UN agency is conducting assessments and preparing to provide additional assistance, including preparing a site to accommodate the refugees.

KEY FIGURES



2.6 Million

People supported with emergency food assistance



\$3.9 Million

In dedicated FY 2021 USAID/BHA support for life-saving health care programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Food Program (WFP), and three other partners to provide emergency food assistance to people experiencing acute food insecurity in Sudan, primarily through cash transfers for food and U.S., regionally, and locally sourced cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil. With USG and other donor support, WFP reached more than 2.6 million people in Sudan with humanitarian food assistance between October and December 2020.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports IOM, UNICEF, the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and 11 international NGOs to provide life-saving health care across Sudan. USAID/BHA provides essential medicines, supports health facilities, and trains community health workers to support critical health needs, as well as COVID-19 response efforts. In addition, USAID/BHA NGO partners and State/PRM partners—including UNHCR—support essential health interventions for IDPs and other vulnerable populations in Sudan.



\$8.2 Million

In dedicated FY 2021
USG support for
WASH activities

WASH

State/PRM and USAID/BHA support WASH programming throughout Sudan to prevent and contain communicable disease outbreaks, including COVID-19, and improve access to safe drinking water. State/PRM and USAID/BHA funding supports partners to provide emergency WASH support for conflict-affected populations, as well as hygiene awareness sessions and safe drinking water to other populations in need.



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Number of USG
implementing partners
supporting programming
to combat malnutrition

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports partners on the forefront of efforts to prevent, identify, and treat acute malnutrition through the implementation of multi-sector integrated intervention approaches—including the provision of nutritional supplements, as well as health and WASH, agriculture and food security interventions. Nutritional programming supports community- and evidence-based management of malnutrition by focusing on children and pregnant and lactating women in particular and supporting nutrition education.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Ongoing conflict, protracted displacement, and climatic events in Sudan have disrupted livelihood activities and impeded access to natural resources and basic services. Fighting among the Sudanese Armed Forces, armed opposition groups, militias, and ethnic groups in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, Darfur, and Abyei Area has resulted in food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH needs. Humanitarian needs have been compounded by the ongoing economic crisis and the impact of COVID-19 containment measures. Additionally, Sudan experienced its worst flooding in more than 100 years between July and September 2020, affecting more than 875,000 people.
- In April 2019, a civilian uprising grew out of protests against high prices for bread, fuel shortages, and other economic issues. On April 11, Sudanese military officials overthrew President Omar al-Bashir in support of a popular revolution, and subsequent political uncertainty contributed to heightened humanitarian security and protection concerns. In August, a signed constitutional declaration laid out arrangements for a civilian-led transitional government for a 39-month period, with Abdalla Hamdok appointed as Prime Minister.
- Conflict and food insecurity in neighboring South Sudan continues to fuel an influx of South Sudanese refugees into Sudan, placing further constraints on GoS and host community resources. The UN estimates that 13.4 million people will require humanitarian assistance in Sudan in 2021, with approximately \$1.9 billion required during the year to provide life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable people in the country.
- Insecurity, access restrictions, limited funding, and bureaucratic impediments limit relief agencies' ability to respond to humanitarian and recovery needs in Sudan. Despite humanitarian access improvements since 2016, particularly in Jebel Marra, relief agencies continue to face a challenging operational environment in Sudan.
- On October 26, 2020, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Brian Shukan renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Sudan for FY 2021. The U.S. Mission in Sudan has declared disasters due to the complex emergency annually since 1987.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners	Agriculture and Food Security; Risk Management Policy and Practice (RMPP); Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Health; Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Blue Nile, Central Darfur, Gezira, Khartoum, Northern, Red Sea, River Nile, Sennar, South Kordofan, West Darfur	\$10,199,670
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security, Food Assistance, WASH	Blue Nile, Central Darfur, Gedaref, Kassala, Red Sea, Sennar, West Darfur	\$5,000,000
IOM	WASH	Countrywide	\$1,100,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$7,000,000
UNICEF	Health	Countrywide	\$2,518,621
	WASH	Countrywide	\$3,000,402
WFP	RMPP, Food Assistance, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$96,199,033
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$128,017,726
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Multi-sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$12,330,000
UNICEF	Multi-sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$5,110,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$17,440,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$145,457,726

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 5, 2021.

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)