Insecurity, elevated food prices, and deteriorating economic conditions are driving high levels of vulnerability in Sudan, where the UN estimates approximately 8.5 million people require humanitarian assistance.

**SITUATION**

- An estimated 6.3 million people across Sudan were experiencing Crisis (IPC 3) or worse levels of acute food insecurity from June through August, according to a September IPC analysis.* Civil unrest and poor economic conditions—including cash shortages, elevated food and fuel prices, and high inflation—are factors cited as contributing to the high prevalence of acute food insecurity. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) indicates that IDPs and poor households in Jebel Marra—a mountainous region encompassing parts of Central Darfur, North Darfur, and South Darfur—and in parts of South Kordofan are experiencing Emergency (IPC 4) outcomes during the ongoing lean season.

- Prices for key staple foods continued to increase sharply in August to approximately double the prices from August 2018 and three times higher than the five-year average, according to FEWS NET. While the start of the harvest in October may improve food security outcomes in some areas, Crisis conditions are likely to persist in parts of Blue Nile, Kassala, North Darfur, North Kordofan, Red Sea, and South Kordofan states, as well as in Jebel Marra through at least January.

- Multiple years of conflict and insecurity, as well as periodic drought and floods, have left 1.86 million people internally displaced across Sudan, according to the UN. Sudan also hosts approximately 1.2 million refugees—including nearly 860,000 South Sudanese refugees fleeing conflict and food insecurity—who remain largely reliant on food aid.

- An elevated number of Sudanese are facing poor nutritional outcomes, due in part to the increasing cost of the basic food basket. Around 2.4 million children ages five years and younger are acutely malnourished, with approximately 700,000 suffering from severe acute malnutrition, according to the UN.

*The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal (IPC 1) to Famine (IPC 5).

**RESPONSE**

- USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (FFP) partners with the UN World Food Program (WFP), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and multiple non-governmental organizations to provide emergency assistance to those most in need and to reduce chronic food insecurity, stabilize malnutrition rates, and restore livelihoods. In Fiscal Year 2019, FFP assistance enabled WFP and UNICEF to target 1.79 million people with food assistance and 100,800 severely malnourished children ages five years and younger with treatment, respectively. FFP’s assistance includes in-kind food aid procured in the United States, locally, regionally, or internationally; food vouchers; cash transfers for food; and complementary services, including training on agricultural production and natural resource management techniques as well as hygiene practices and nutrition-sensitive food preparation.

*Metric tonnage does not reflect funding for vouchers or cash transfers.

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*Photo: A mother holds her baby as she waits at a WFP-run nutrition clinic in Blue Nile State.*