



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

SUDAN REGIONAL CRISIS EXTERNAL SITUATION REPORT #5 May 2024



WFP
World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of May 31, **9.2 million** people had been displaced inside and out of Sudan since April 2023. Among them, 7.2 million are IDPs and 1.9 million are refugees (604,206 to Chad, 700,022 to South Sudan, 500,000 to Egypt, 55,091 to Ethiopia, 31,649 to CAR).
- **28 million** people across Sudan, South Sudan and Chad are acutely food insecure (18 million in Sudan, 7 million in South Sudan and 3 million in Chad).
- Potentially the world's worst hunger crisis could be observed in Sudan with already 18 million people acutely food insecure, up from 9 million in 2022.
- At least **3.7 million** children under 5 years in Sudan are estimated to be acutely malnourished, including over 2.9 million who are expected to suffer from moderate acute malnutrition. In addition, 1.2 million pregnant and breastfeeding women suffer from acute malnutrition and are in dire need of treatment.
- UNICEF reports that **19.4 million** children are not accessing education since the war broke out.
- In May, WFP reached over 1 million people in Sudan, 67,100 people in South Sudan and 476,000 in Chad affected by the Sudan crisis.
- WFP requires **USD 349 million** over the next six months (June – November 2024) to meet the needs across the three countries (Sudan, South Sudan and Chad), to effectively respond to the Sudan crisis.





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SITUATION OVERVIEW

The ongoing crisis in Sudan has led to a severe humanitarian crisis, marked by widespread displacement, food insecurity, and malnutrition among its population. Since the start of the conflict in April 2023, over 9.2 million people have been forcibly displaced including 7.1 million internally displaced within Sudan, seeking refuge in 7,869 locations from violence and instability.

The main constraint to averting famine in the Sudan is humanitarian access to those in need. Additionally, the window to access parts of Sudan from neighbouring countries is rapidly closing as the rainy season approaches.

The conflict has also severely disrupted agricultural activities and food supply chains, exacerbating food insecurity. An estimated 18 million people face acute food insecurity, and struggle to access sufficient nutritious food due to conflict, economic challenges, and climate change impacts. Potentially the world's worst hunger crisis, Sudan has seen the number of acutely food-insecure people double from 9 million in 2022 to 18 million. The situation is particularly dire in areas affected by active fighting and those experiencing prolonged droughts and is compounded by economic instability and high inflation rates, which limit the population's purchasing power.

About 26 percent of IDPs initially displaced prior to the current conflict have experienced secondary or tertiary displacement since onset of the conflict. The top states of origin among IDPs were Khartoum (36 percent), South Darfur (21 percent), and North Darfur (12 percent). The states hosting the most IDPs were South Darfur (18 percent), North Darfur (13 percent), and Central Darfur (9 percent). Over half (56 percent) of IDPs were reportedly children under the age of 18.

Malnutrition rates, especially among children under five, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers, are alarmingly high. Approximately 3.7 million children under five years and 1.2 million pregnant and breastfeeding women are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition. These numbers reflect the immediate health risks faced by vulnerable populations and emphasize the necessity for targeted nutritional interventions.

The economic fallout from the conflict has been devastating, exacerbating poverty levels and hindering development efforts. The [World Bank](#) estimates that the conflict has cost Sudan billions of dollars in lost GDP, with significant impacts on infrastructure, agriculture, and trade. The economic repercussions extend beyond national borders, affecting regional stability and global markets.

WFP's monthly market monitor for April revealed that the price of essential food items, including sorghum (the main staple food) and wheat, experienced significant increases compared to the previous months. Compared to the same period last year, food prices have surged by 127 percent. The main harvest in Sudan was extremely poor, 40 percent below the 5-year average, contributing to high prices and lack of access to food. With cereal food use estimated at 7.3 million tons, the cereal import requirements for 2024 are forecast at 3.38 million tons (including 2.44 million tons of wheat and 662 000 tons of sorghum). Significantly hampered important capacities will further exacerbate the macroeconomic crisis.

[FEWS NET](#) warns of an imminent famine in Sudan, particularly in regions such as West Darfur and parts of Khartoum, which are at high risk of reaching "Famine" (IPC Phase 5) due to ongoing conflict. The conflict has drastically limited food access, resulting in decreased food production, skyrocketing prices, loss of income, and severely restricted access to humanitarian assistance. The alert emphasizes the need for immediate safe passage for humanitarian aid and government facilitation of food assistance to avert catastrophic hunger and malnutrition.

Currently the only open cross-border route into the Darfur region is from Tine (Chad) into North Darfur. A previously open border crossing from Adre (Chad) into West Darfur remains closed by the Sudanese authorities. The alternate route through the Tine border crossing to North Darfur cannot compensate for the closure of Adre, which is vital to reach West, Central, South and East Darfur particularly during the rainy season when the road conditions from the Tine border into Darfur will deteriorate.

Despite facing substantial challenges, including theft and looting resulting in significant commodity losses since the conflict erupted in April of 2023, WFP remains steadfast in its mission to respond to the crisis in Sudan. In 2024, WFP suffered losses totaling an estimated 2,837 metric tons (mt) of food and non-food items, valued at approximately USD 3.4 million. Cumulatively, since the conflict started, WFP has incurred losses of 42,918 mt of food and USD 95.9 million.

The one-year plus of conflict has kept 19.4 million school-aged children away from formal education. Even before the conflict, Sudan already had one of the highest numbers of out- of-school children at 7 million. With 23,000 schools either closed or inaccessible, Sudan faces the worst education crisis in the world. School infrastructure has been either damaged or indefinitely closed, deepening learning poverty due to the extended lack of access to education. This disruption also exposes children to numerous risks, such as recruitment into armed groups and gender-based violence. The long-term impacts are extensive, affecting individuals, communities, and the nation. This generation is missing out on opportunities for enhanced knowledge and skills yet will still need to compete in the global labor market.

CONTEXT IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND CROSS-BORDER IMPACT OF THE SUDAN CRISIS

South Sudan continues to face multiple intersecting crises, marked by subnational violence, climate change, displacement, and economic decline, pushing millions of families into food and nutrition insecurity. Unpredictable weather patterns exacerbate South Sudan's vulnerabilities, creating a vicious cycle of food insecurity and displacement. The Sudan conflict has compounded the situation. By the end of May, nearly 700,000 people out of 1.8 million displaced from Sudan to neighbouring countries since the start of the conflict in April last year had arrived in South Sudan.

Onward transport from Renk to final destinations remained limited due to the new arrivals' hesitancy to move to final destinations, causing overcrowding at the Renk transit centres. The approaching rains could worsen the water, sanitation and hygiene conditions for over 14,000 people at the transit centres, further compounding their food and nutrition insecurity. WFP has engaged partners in urgent discussions to develop mitigation measures for this critical period.

Nine million people require humanitarian assistance in South Sudan. About 7.1 million people face severe food insecurity during the ongoing lean season. Of these, 2.3 million and 79,000 face Emergency and Catastrophe food insecurity levels, respectively, including areas inhabited by new arrivals.

South Sudan's currency has depreciated rapidly, causing food and fuel prices to soar. This economic crisis is linked to a disrupted oil export industry due to the conflict in Sudan, threatening to worsen the country's economic and political challenges. The economic meltdown could worsen the humanitarian crisis the country is already grappling with.

In Chad, the number of refugees has doubled to over 1.2 million ([UNHCR](#)) since last April, making Chad Africa's largest refugee-hosting country. The number of Sudanese refugees (old and new) climbed to nearly 1 million people – constituting 86 percent of all registered refugees in the country. Thousands more people are arriving from Sudan to eastern Chad every week, with the majority stating hunger as the main reason for leaving rather than ongoing clashes. Over 604,000 refugees ([UNHCR](#)) and 173,000 Chadian returnees¹ have fled from Sudan to Chad since April 2023.

¹ IOM Sudan Crisis Response: Flash update 34



WFP RESPONSE IN SUDAN

Since the beginning of 2024, WFP has provided food and nutrition assistance to 2.6 million people across Sudan including 325,060 people through cash-based transfer across Gedaref Kassala, Khartoum, Red Sea, and West Darfur, injecting a total of USD 7.1 million into local economies.

WFP reached approximately 928,787 people during the reporting period. In April and May, WFP dispatched over 36,000 mt of assorted commodities, targeting over 900,000 individuals across Sudan. Nearly 8,000 mt were transported via cross-border and crossline routes, and 28,500 mt were delivered to cooperating partners and WFP warehouses.

As part of the ongoing efforts, the nutrition team is developing a nutrition dashboard to enhance programme efficiency and effectiveness by providing data-driven insights and actions. The first draft of the nutrition dashboard has been presented to management and will be finalized by the end of June 2024. Furthermore, WFP continues to engage with UNICEF, WHO, and the Government on strategic initiatives to improve nutrition programmes, including the transition to new WHO guidelines on wasting management.

In May, WFP dispatched a three-month supply of specialized nutritious food to South Darfur and the Umshalaya refugee camp to support 6,940 refugees and host community members and 4,000 IDPs at Rongatas IDP camp in Central Darfur. Additionally, WFP is initiating a no-cost Field Level Agreement (FLA) with MSF to implement a Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) in Zam Zam camp for three months. WFP is committed to increasing emergency nutrition support and prioritizing those most at risk of malnutrition, including many internally displaced by the conflict. As of May 2024, the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP) is being implemented in 710 health facilities, up from 654 in February 2024.

The first convoy crossed the Tine (Chad) border using flexible routes to Central and South Darfur and transferred to Sudanese transporters 1,212 mt of assorted commodities with assistance for 117,300 people. To expedite food delivery to vulnerable communities before the expected June rains, the transporters were given the flexibility to choose preferred routes. Additionally, cross-border trucks from Maban, South Sudan to Yabus, Blue Nile commenced.

WFP food distributions are ongoing for 135,500 people in areas in Kauda, South Kordofan and 2,000 mt of food have been distributed out of the 3,476 mt allocated to cover May to July.

WFP completed the April/May cash-based transfer distribution cycles in Kassala, Red Sea, and Gedaref, reaching 127,781 people with additional caseloads planned for the April to June cycle to reach 75,764 individuals. Due to rising food prices, WFP has adjusted the CBT transfer value from 8,500 SDG per person per month to 11,000 SDG (half ration). WFP will also adjust the CBT amount to 15,500 SDG (70 percent ration) for refugees and populations in hunger hotspots. Since the conflict began, WFP commenced its first cash-based distribution in Geneina, West Darfur in May. So far 13,000 individuals have redeemed their commodity vouchers, totalling USD 107,000.

To expand CBT, WFP is conducting assessments in North, South, and West Kordofan, and East Darfur in June. WFP will partner with various financial service providers to ensure adequate liquidity cash is available. WFP has 12 retailers in West Darfur and plans to expand to over 100 across West and Central Darfur.





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WFP RESPONSE IN SOUTH SUDAN

Since the onset of the crisis, WFP has provided food assistance to nearly 534,000 new arrivals, with 114,000 receiving food assistance at final destinations as part of Phase II of the Sudan crisis response. In May, WFP reached 67,103 people, a five percent increase compared to the 63,946 people reached in April.

The humanitarian country team endorsed the proposal to provide a protective ration through cash-based transfers to households with children aged 6 – 23 months at the Renk transit centers to complement the nutrition-specific support. WFP is developing robust measures to mitigate risks of duplication and disincentives for onward movement and monitor the impact of cash.

WFP launched the second phase of its partnership with Internews and its local partner, Community Engagement Network, to continue strengthening its accountability to affected populations and empower people with critical information on accessing essential resources in Renk, Malakal, and Aweil. The first Community Voices Bulletins under Phase II were published for Malakal and Renk, including feedback, questions and concerns collected from a diverse range of voices in the community.

WFP's response continues to be impacted by newly introduced fuel taxes. The suspension of airdrops since April to conserve fuel stocks has affected deliveries for 144,000 people in hard-to-reach areas, including areas hosting relatively high numbers of returnees.

WFP RESPONSE IN CHAD

In May, WFP provided food assistance in response to the Sudan crisis for over 475,000 people. Cumulatively, WFP has reached over 700,000 people, including new refugees, new returnees, and the most vulnerable host populations. Of those reached, over 200,000 received interventions to prevent and treat malnutrition.

WFP has delivered 86,700 mt of commodities to crisis-affected communities in eastern Chad since April 2023. Moreover, WFP continues to strengthen its logistics hubs along the entire supply chain to reinforce its operations in eastern Chad as well as provide bilateral services for other agencies and partners. So far, WFP has set up 116 mobile storage units to support the humanitarian response in the region.





Logistics Cluster

During the reporting period, the Sudan Logistics Cluster held an orientation for 45 partners explaining how to use and submit information to LogIE, the online GIS platform for sharing logistics information. The cluster has plotted over 200 seasonal riverbeds on LogIE along key supply routes that are likely to be affected during the upcoming rainy season and has developed a regional map showing the estimated physical access constraints that will be faced in Sudan, Chad, and South Sudan during peak rainy season to support supply chain and access strategies.

In May, the Sudan Logistics Cluster stored 9,359 m³ of humanitarian relief supplies from 18 partners in four locations and reopened the Kosti common storage facility. Since the onset of the conflict, the cluster has stored over 27,000 m³ of humanitarian supplies for 22 partners in five locations, and has loaned 18 mobile storage units to partners, 12 of which have been erected for operational use.

In May, the Logistics Cluster in South Sudan, coordinated transport of 114 mt of logistics and protection cargo by river from Bor to Malakal to support the ongoing Sudan crisis on behalf of UNHCR. The cluster transported 14 mt of food security and health supplies by road from Bentiu to Rotriak on behalf of IOM and Welthungerhilfe utilizing IOM's common transport service trucks



Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

The ETC is enhancing its coordination efforts in Port Sudan, Kassala, and Kosti. New operational hubs are being established in Dongola and Wadi Halfa, near the Egyptian border, where data connectivity services are crucial for effective humanitarian response.

In collaboration with IOM, UNICEF, and WFP, the ETC is working to determine approaches to support the displaced populations in Sudan and identify their information access needs. Outcomes indicate that displaced people critically need connectivity in the border town of Wadi Halfa. The cluster is also planning to expand and strengthen the very high frequency (VHF) radio network in ten common operational areas, including strategic locations such as Port Sudan, Kassala, Kosti, Wad Madani, and Gedaref, starting at the end of May 2024. Additionally, efforts are being made to promote awareness and build capacity among UN agencies for regular radio checks.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

UNHAS Sudan remains operational, connecting Port Sudan, Amman, and Nairobi. Since the beginning of the year, UNHAS has transported over 2,850 passengers, including medical evacuees, and delivered over 13 mt of light humanitarian cargo, serving 69 humanitarian organizations. Although the Sudanese Government announced the opening of airstrips in Kadugli, El Fasher, and El Obeid for humanitarian flights in March, ongoing fighting continues to limit access to these locations. Negotiations are underway to allow unrestricted flights to these areas.

UNHAS South Sudan transported 490 passengers and 8 mt of light cargo to and from Renk supporting 42 organizations in May. The first DHC-8 aircraft landed on the newly rehabilitated Renk runway on 10 May. The runway will enable fixed-wing aircraft with full-passenger capacity to land and take off and could save up to USD 1.7 million annually.

UNHAS Chad transported 2,195 passengers, along with 6.6 mt of cargo (mainly medicines and non-food items), largely providing support for WFP, UNHCR, IOM, ICRC, Concern Worldwide and MSF.



Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

WFP conducted a webinar to reflect on its experience in mainstreaming conflict sensitivity in Sudan, with over 80 participants from WFP worldwide attending. The webinar highlighted key lessons and strategies. WFP also conducted a refresher session on protection and gender policies, followed by a discussion on relevant risks and mitigation measures related to Hub operations, which were included in the protection risks matrix.

WFP reached over 68,000 community members, leaders, women, youth, local authorities, and other stakeholders through various engagements to disseminate information and raise awareness about programme activities in Sudan. Coordination meetings with UNHCR, CPs, and local authorities prepared for the upcoming change in refugee ration size to 70 partners, ensuring partners understood the changes and targets.

In South Sudan, WFP partnered with Internews Europe to strengthen information dissemination channels for its crisis response in Aweil, Renk, and Malakal. The collaboration ensured the affected populations received accurate information on their entitlements while addressing their concerns. Through information provision, Internews and the Community Engagement Network helped enhance coordination, referral mechanisms, and empowerment of the affected population.

SIX-MONTH FUNDING OUTLOOK PER COUNTRY

Country	Six-month funding requirements (June - November) for Sudan Crisis Response
Sudan	USD 186 million
South Sudan	USD 53 million
Chad	USD 110 million
Total	USD 349 million



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