



World Food Programme

# WFP Sudan

## External Situation Report

### May 2025



Photo: 23 May 2025, a vessel with US wheat arrived in Port Sudan. © WFP/Kazuhiko YAMAZAKI

## In Numbers

### 5.1 million people assisted in May



**3.7 million** people reached with in-kind food assistance



**847,000** people received cash-based food assistance



**386,000** people supported with nutrition rations



**199,200** people assisted with home-grown school feeding



**35,000** people supported with small market resilience



**US\$575 million** required by WFP Sudan from June – November 2025

## Situation Update

- Sudan continues to be the world's largest displacement and hunger crisis, further deepening humanitarian needs in the country.
- On 4 May, drone strikes were launched towards Port Sudan, targeting a military airbase, a warehouse and civilian facilities. This marked the first attack on Port Sudan, a city that serves as a hub for international organizations, including WFP, as well as displaced civilians. While drone attacks and activity continued during May, the majority have been intercepted by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).
- On 13 May, the [UN Secretary-General](#) expressed grave concern over the escalating violence in Sudan and its impact on humanitarian operations. He warned of potential large-scale civilian casualties and infrastructure destruction and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and renewed dialogue.
- Based on the latest International Organization for Migration (IOM) Sudan Mobility Update, there are 10.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) across over 10,400 locations in all 18 states of Sudan, and around 4.1 million individuals who have fled to neighbouring countries such as Chad, South Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Uganda.
- Between December 18, 2024, and May 28, 2025, IOM recorded approximately 1.1 million returnees across 898 locations in Sudan, an 89 percent increase from the previous update, which reported 629,000 returnees. This surge is largely due to displaced people returning to Gezira and Khartoum.
- The Adré border crossing will remain open until 16 August.

## Highlights

- In May 2025, WFP reached the highest number of people since the conflict began, assisting an estimated 5.1 million people across all modalities. This includes over 1.9 million people in the Darfurs, 1.3 million people in Khartoum and Gezira, 344,000 people in the Kordofans, and 1.6 million people across the rest of Sudan.
- WFP reached 1.7 million people in famine and risk of famine (RoF) areas in Sudan. This represents about 85 percent of the Sudanese population facing famine.

## Security Update

- WFP continues to respond in North Darfur despite multiple WFP facilities in El Fasher coming under repeated artillery shelling, causing damage but no reported casualties from 19 May and 8 June 2025.
- In Port Sudan, WFP has proactively implemented mitigation measures in response to drone activity, working closely with the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) to ensure staff safety and operational continuity. These efforts have allowed WFP to maintain critical supply lines and support humanitarian partners across Sudan.

## Security Update Cont.

- A joint WFP and UNICEF convoy, carrying 915 metric tons of food and essential commodities, was attacked at midnight on 2 June while en route from Port Sudan to El Fasher—a famine-struck location and the capital of North Darfur. The convoy was halted 76 kilometres from El Fasher in Al Koma awaiting clearance to proceed when it was attacked. Five members of the convoy were killed, several others injured, and multiple trucks were burned or heavily damaged as a result of the attack.
- WFP and UNICEF issued a [Joint Statement](#) condemning the attack and calling for an urgent investigation and for the perpetrators to be held to account. A statement was also released by the [UN Security Council](#), as well as a [Joint Donor Statement](#) issued by: European Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.



Photo: 5 June 2025, Khartoum State. © WFP/Abubakar GARELNABEI

## Operational Update

### May Achievements:

- In May 2025, WFP reached a major milestone, assisting an estimated 5.1 million people—the highest number since the onset of the conflict.
- In May, 75 percent of WFP trucks received clearance from the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), with only one percent rejected. Additionally, field visit facilitation is gaining positive momentum, indicating progress in coordination and access.
- Despite heightened drone activity over Port Sudan, WFP has maintained uninterrupted operations.

### Response in Famine and Risk of Famine Areas:

- Despite volatile conditions, WFP has sustained its operations in famine-affected and at-risk areas.
- In Tawila, WFP continues to provide in-kind food and specialized nutrition supplies to over 335,500 famine affected people who fled from Zamzam Camp.
- WFP is expanding its infrastructure in the Darfurs. WFP has established a warehouse in Tawila, North Darfur with 4 MSUs (1800 mt capacity) and has rented two warehouses in Nyala, South Darfur.

- In May alone, nearly 70 percent of individuals facing famine were accessible only via cash-based transfers (CBT), underscoring the importance of flexible and scalable response modalities.
- To enhance delivery capacity, WFP is expanding its CBT operations in the Darfur and Kordofan, to onboard 1 million beneficiaries into bank account systems.
- In parallel, WFP is engaging with nearly 300 local retailers to support voucher distribution in hard-to-reach communities, reinforcing local markets and ensuring sustained access to essential supplies.

### Khartoum Scale Up:

- WFP is taking steps to establish its operational presence in the Greater Khartoum area through a phased, security-conscious approach.
- In May, in Khartoum WFP reached over 1 million people with assistance providing hot meals to approximately 490,000 individuals. 531,000 people were reached with in-kind food and 7,800 reached with cash-based transfers.
- Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs) have played a critical role in Khartoum, where WFP works with over 250 such community-based structures to facilitate last-mile delivery. However, due to a lack of funding starting in June, WFP has had to reduce support to ERRs in Khartoum but will continue support ERRs in Jebel Alia.
- There are 7 localities in Khartoum state (Karrari, Bahri, Khartoum, Omdurman, Um Bada Sharg, An Neel Jebel and Awlia). In early June, WFP is opening an Area Office in Omdurman, an important milestone that provides a platform to scale up and strengthen programmes across all Khartoum's localities. This establishment will also open access to other operational agencies to support coordinated and integrated programme delivery.

## Critical Funding Shortfalls:

- Critical funding shortfalls are already disrupting operations and place the continuity of assistance at imminent risk with the lean season and conflict intensifying across multiple fronts.
- Funds initially earmarked for prepositioning are being to cover immediate gaps; and within the May cycle WFP is already forced to roll back assistance and is compelled to further roll back its operational plan from June onwards affecting people facing acute and emergency food insecurity.
- Resources are rapidly depleting and are no longer sufficient to meet urgent needs. Without urgent additional funding, WFP will face pipeline breaks for both in-kind food assistance and cash-based transfers (CBT) as early as June.

## School Meals Programme:

- WFP launched its first School Meals Programme in Sudan's Northern State mid-May, marked by an inaugural event highlighting the importance of school feeding.
- The programme will provide take-home rations to more than 37,000 students and their families across 128 schools in three localities: Delgo, Halfa, and Dongola. These schools had previously closed due to conflict and had reopened in January.
- So far this year, WFP has reached 545,000 school-going children in Gedaref, Kassala, Red Sea and River Nile states.

## Clusters and Common Services

### 📦 Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster continues to provide common storage services at no cost in Port Sudan, Gedaref, Kassala, and Kosti, including temperature-controlled storage in Port Sudan. In May 11,300 M3 of humanitarian supplies was stored for 16 organisations, including food security, nutrition, health, WASH, education, protection, shelter, logistics, and telecommunications cargo. The Logistics Cluster also provided six trucks to partners at no cost, enabling them to deliver supplies to hard-to-reach areas.

- To support rainy season preparedness, a new module was launched on the [Sudan LogIE \(Logistics Information Exchange\)](#) platform offering data on 2,000+ mapped wadis, road conditions, and local flood risks. Thirty-seven humanitarians from 21 organizations were trained on its use.
- In 2025, the Cluster has supported 72 partners with coordination, information management, and common services.
- An inter-agency convoy from Chad reached Tawila, North Darfur, including nine trucks from UNHCR, three from UNFPA, two from UNICEF, and one from WHO. An additional inter-agency convoy from Chad reached Um Dukhun, Central Darfur, and Foro Baranga, West Darfur, with two WHO trucks and one UNFPA truck.

### 📞 Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

- ETC internet services are currently active at 65 sites across seven operational areas: Port Sudan, Kassala, Kosti, Damazine, El-Gedaref, Dongola and Atbara. 45 humanitarian organizations currently benefit from ETC services.
- In response to drone strikes targeting Port Sudan in May, emergency messaging and blackout protocols were developed and shared with partners through two ad-hoc ETC Working Group meetings on 14 and 21 May.



Photo: 23 May 2025, US Vessel arrived in Port Sudan.  
© WFP/Kazuhiro YAMAZAKI





Photo: 4 May 2025, Inter-agency mission in Tawila, North Darfur.  
©WFP/Mohamed GALAL

### Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Cont.

- The ETC has worked with WFP and other partners in El-Obeid to assess the condition of existing connectivity equipment and identified the Information Technology needs of UN agencies operating in the area to guide potential ETC service expansion.

### The Food Security Cluster

- The Sudan Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster and its partners continue to deliver vital assistance across all 18 states of Sudan.
- Through coordinated and sustained efforts, they are addressing urgent food insecurity while simultaneously investing in long-term resilience through livelihood support initiatives.
- As of the latest reporting period, FSL partners have reached a total of 9.5 million people with life-saving food and livelihood assistance. This milestone is the result of the collaboration of 25 cluster partners operating across 140 localities nationwide.

- The response has addressed both immediate and long-term needs. Over 6.8 million people received direct food assistance to meet urgent nutritional requirements. At the same time, more than 2.3 million individuals benefited from agricultural and livelihood support—such as seeds, tools, and livestock—aimed at fostering self-reliance and long-term food security. Of the total amount of people reached by the FSL Cluster, WFP provided 90 percent of all the crisis response and contributed 15 percent of the livelihood support efforts.

### UN Humanitarian Air Services

- Following the drone attacks on 4 May, UNHAS resumed operations on 8 May, transporting 124 stranded passengers in Port Sudan. In May, over 600 humanitarian personnel and 3 MT of essential cargo were moved for 65 agencies to 3 destinations. UNHAS continues to face GPS jamming and spoofing at key airports.
- As a result of the drone attacks, commercial airlines such as Ethiopian and Egypt Air suspended operations, and UNHAS increased flight frequencies on the Nairobi route from 2 to 3 weekly flights. UNHAS is also exploring the reestablishment of the Cairo flights to respond to user needs.
- UNHAS is moving forward with its preparations for domestic flight operations and has identified a smaller aircraft for this purpose.

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT



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