



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sudan

External Situation Report

December 2024

Highlights

- Sudan is facing **the world's largest hunger crisis**, with **famine** officially confirmed in five locations. Nearly **1.7 million people** across the country are either experiencing **famine or at risk**, and without urgent humanitarian assistance, hundreds of thousands could face life-threatening consequences due to hunger.
- The Sudanese Central Bank's currency note replacement and new withdrawal cap (200,000 SDG or USD 80) have caused **a liquidity crisis**, preventing WFP from accessing enough cash for distributions. As a result, around **700,000 people** did not receive cash assistance in December.
- In 2024, more than 7 million people received critical food assistance, across the Darfurs, Khartoum, Al Gezira, Kordofan and the rest of the country.
- WFP assisted **4 million individuals with** in-kind food assistance and supported **2 million people** through **USD 50 million** in Cash-Based Transfers (CBT).

Situation Update

- Famine, first declared in August at Zamzam IDP Camp in North Darfur, has now spread to **five areas**, including Abu Shouk Camp, El Salam Camp, and Western Nuba Mountains. Five more areas, including Um Kadadah and El Fasher, are projected to face famine between December 2024 and May 2025. Additionally, 17 areas across Central Nuba Mountains, North Darfur, South Darfur, Khartoum, and Al Jazeera are at risk of famine.
- WFP mourns the **loss of three team members** in a December 19 aerial bombardment in Yabus, Blue Nile State. The Executive Director called for aid worker protection and a thorough investigation. WFP continues its operations, committed to providing essential aid and ensuring staff safety.
- In December, WFP's efforts to reach populations in need were significantly delayed due to a **challenging operational environment**, including the liquidity crisis and sporadic Humanitarian Aid Commission approvals, resulting in WFP reaching 2.1 million people.

In Numbers Jan to Dec 2024

-  **4 million reached with food deliveries**
-  **2 million people received CBT**
-  **2 million supported with nutrition rations**
-  **619k school children with take-home-rations**
-  **USD 614 million is required between January 2024 - June 2025**

The figures are estimates based on preliminary distribution reports.



© WFP/Abubakar-Garelnabe / WFP Truck being loaded in Kassala

WFP's Response

- WFP continues to use commodity vouchers through retailers' initiative in areas where traditional food distribution is not feasible due to access challenges, serving as an alternate modality to reach those in need. In December, WFP implemented this initiative in famine-hit Zamzam camp, and risk of famine areas including Abu Shouk camp, El Salam camp and Sheikan in North Kordofan, reaching nearly 170,000 people. WFP is actively working **to transition cash-in-hand operations to value vouchers assistance** due to the liquidity crisis which will be protracted.
- Beyond emergency response, WFP is supporting the people of Sudan through resilience building and economic strengthening, reaching over 350,000 people between Jan-Nov 2024. WFP has supported 97,000 people create community assets in Kassala and Gedaref, injecting over USD 3 million to vulnerable populations.
- On December 25th, WFP successfully delivered emergency food assistance for an estimated 78,000 people in need in the Risk of Famine areas of Mayo and Al Ingaz in Khartoum. These areas, under the control of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), had been previously inaccessible. In addition, WFP signed an agreement with MSF-France and provided 300 MT food, to be picked up by MSF from Abeche and to be distributed in Tawila, North Darfur, targeting 30,000 people.



© WFP/Abubakar-Garelnabei /
Food arrives in Khartoum



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Key Challenges

- WFP faces challenges in securing sustained access for crossline and cross-border operations. To effectively reach those in need across Sudan, it is crucial to have all international borders open, especially the Aweil border crossing from South Sudan, and sustained access through Adre and Tine in Chad.
- WFP's life-saving assistance is being delayed by new bureaucratic requirements for physical documents, route plans, and driver identification for crossline or cross-border movements. These processes lack a definite timeframe, preventing urgent aid delivery.
- Sudan's ongoing liquidity crisis, worsened by the Central Bank's new currency issuance, halted WFP's cash assistance in December, affecting 700,000 people. Despite scaling up efforts ten-fold since January 2024, WFP's operations are stalled after a denied UN request for a "humanitarian waiver." WFP is exploring voucher alternatives and digital cash solutions and advocating for prioritizing humanitarian cash disbursements.

Clusters and Common Services

The Logistics Cluster in coordination with OCHA and the UN Civil-Military Coordination Cell, supported inter-agency convoys delivering critical humanitarian supplies in 2024. These convoys transported 33 trucks of relief cargo for 11 organizations to Kosti and Gedaref. In December, the Cluster facilitated partner cargo in WFP-led movements to Khartoum and Zamzam Camp in North Darfur. The Zamzam convoy, including WHO and UNICEF cargo, and three UNHCR trucks, is currently undergoing clearances in El Geneina. As a Provider of Last Resort, the Cluster contracted 26 trucks for 13 partners, providing free transport services across the country. In December, the Cluster stored 5,850 m³ of supplies, totaling 26,291 m³ for the year, and loaned 20 mobile storage units to eight partners. Since January, the Cluster has supported 90 organizations with logistics information, coordination, and storage.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is providing internet connectivity at seven key locations in Sudan and plans to expand coverage, including in Darfur. On December 12, the ETC completed its final Cambium Network Training in Dubai, training 50 Sudan-based humanitarian staff from WFP, UN agencies, and NGOs to use new network equipment for 2025 responses.

UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) flights from Amman, Cairo and Nairobi to Port Sudan have supported 78 humanitarian organizations. Since January, over 8,063 passengers and approximately 31 MT of light cargo have been transported across 507 flights. In November, UNHAS began domestic flights from Port Sudan to Kassala and Dongola.

The Food Security Cluster (FSL) has reached 12.79 million people across Sudan with life-saving food and livelihoods support from January to November 2024. This includes 6.11 million beneficiaries receiving food assistance and 6.68 million receiving livelihoods assistance. the FSL response includes 68 partners across all states of Sudan.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT

