



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sudan

External Situation Report

January 2025

©The first cross-border barge from Renk in South Sudan reaches Kosti, Sudan via the White Nile River. WFP/Mohamed Karakon. 26 January 2025

Highlights

- Over 1.9 million people across Sudan are either experiencing famine or at risk, and without urgent humanitarian assistance, hundreds of thousands could face life-threatening consequences due to hunger.
- Half the population of Sudan (24.6 million people) remain acutely food insecure. Acute malnutrition rates are over double the emergency threshold in some areas; millions of children are at risk. Sudan has the highest number of people in the world in IPC 5.
- In 2024, over 8 million people received critical food, cash and nutrition assistance across the country.
- In 2025, contingent on access and sufficient financial resources, WFP will continue to scale up its operations, targeting up to 4.5 million people by March and 6 million people by end of year.

In Numbers January 2025



1.2 million reached with food assistance



850K people received CBT



170K people supported with nutrition rations



50k school children with take-home-rations



USD 620 million is required between February 2025 - July 2025

Situation Update

- Twenty-one months into the conflict, Sudan continues to be the world's largest hunger crisis. Famine, first declared in August at Zamzam IDP Camp in North Darfur, has now spread to 10 areas, affecting mainly areas in North Darfur, West Kordofan and South Kordofan. WFP is prioritizing reaching the famine and risk of famine areas (RoF) with life saving food assistance. Breakthroughs were achieved in December and January, when risk of famine areas including Jebel Awlia (south Khartoum state) and Wad Medani (Al Jazira state) were reached with food for the first time in over a year.
- In January, the liquidity crisis continued to severely hamper WFP operations. Despite this, WFP reached close to 2.2 million beneficiaries. An upscaling of digital and voucher transfers was instrumental in assuring this reach, accounting for 40 percent of the overall assistance provided during the month.
- Due to same crisis, WFP did not load food on trucks for over 27 days due to lack of cash to pay the labourers. As a result, 45,000 MT of food, which could have fed 4 million people could not be dispatched. Similarly, direct cash distributions to beneficiaries were halted.
- WFP came to an agreement with the authorities in Port Sudan to address the liquidity crisis impact, loading of food onto trucks has resumed, and we are hopeful that cash-in-hand operations may resume soon.

WFP's Response

- Since the onset of the conflict in April 2023, WFP has reached a total of approximately 12 million people, including 3 million in Darfurs, 2.3 million in Khartoum and Al Jazira, 760,000 in Kordofans, and almost 6 million across the rest of the country.
- With the liquidity crisis affecting physical cash distributions in December and January, WFP had to change its strategy and upscale its business-to-business model using commercial retailers to provide food commodities through vouchers.
- In January WFP managed to reach approximately 2.2 million beneficiaries despite several challenges experienced throughout the month. The distributions were mainly driven by an expansion in digital transfers and voucher assistance, which accounted for 40 percent of the overall monthly assistance. The January reach was significantly less than the December 2024 reach of 3.4 million beneficiaries mainly due to the liquidity challenges that affected dispatches and physical cash distributions.
- As part of the effort to open more delivery corridors into Sudan, a barge shipment with 1000 MT of food from Renk, South Sudan arrived in Kosti on 22nd January following several months of planning between Sudanese and South Sudanese authorities.
- In March 2025, WFP aims to reach 4.5 million of the most vulnerable Sudanese with vital food assistance, including 965,000 with preventive nutrition measures, and 335,000 with treatment of malnutrition. To that end, 33,000 MT of food and USD 31 million in cash-based transfer will have to be transferred into the hands of beneficiaries.



© First food distributions in Wad Madani in over a year. WFP was the first agency on ground delivering humanitarian aid, once access to the key eastern city opened up. WFP Partners. 27 January 2025



© First aid distributions in south Khartoum since the conflict started. WFP Partners. 29 December 2024



Key Challenges

- WFP continues to face challenges in securing sustained access for crossline and cross-border operations. To effectively continue the upwards trajectory in operations and 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.
- To support continued scale-up across Sudan, WFP needs UN offices to be operational and staffed with international and national employees across Sudan's entire territory, including locations such as El Fasher, Nyala, Geneina, Zalingei, Kadugli among others.

Clusters and Common Services

The Logistics Cluster (LC) is coordinating with OCHA and the UN Civil-Military Coordination Cell to support inter-agency convoys delivering humanitarian supplies to hard-to-reach areas. In January, they delivered cargo to Omdurman and are currently enroute to Khartoum with 18 trucks. The LC also facilitated cargo transportation through WFP-led movements, including shipments from Chad to Nyala and from Port Sudan to Wad Madani. They provide free storage in several locations, including temperature-controlled storage in Port Sudan, and have loaned mobile storage units to partners. In January 2025, the LC has supported 50 organizations with coordination, information management, and common services.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) provides internet connectivity to around seventy sites in seven areas, including Port Sudan, Kassala, Kosti, Damazine, Gedaref, Dongola, and Atbara. The ETC 2025 strategy focuses on several key areas:

- **Expansion of Services:** ETC aims to expand internet connectivity to hard-to-access areas by collaborating with NGOs that have an existing presence in Darfur.
- **Scaling Up Operations:** As part of the services for the community's pillar, ETC plans to scale up operations by providing connectivity to 'safe spaces' that serve affected communities.
- **Security Telecommunications:** ETC continues to provide security telecommunication services and support five UNDSS-managed Security Operation Centres.

UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) flights from Cairo and Nairobi to Port Sudan have supported 80 humanitarian organizations during the first month of January 2025. Whereas UNHAS transported in the past year over 8,000 passengers and approximately 31 MT of light cargo across more than 500 flights, in January 2025 alone, UNHAS continued with its scheduled international and domestic flights from Port Sudan to Kassala and Dongola as well and transported a total of 719 passengers and 2.2 MT of light cargo by conducting 53 flights.

The Food Security Cluster (FSL) - 98 members of the FSL reached 12.8 million people across Sudan with life-saving food and livelihoods support in 2024. According to the Sudan humanitarian needs and response plan, the cluster requires USD 1.5 billion in 2025 to assist 16.5 million people, the response will prioritize the most vulnerable groups, including IDPs and host communities.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT

