



WFP Sudan

External Situation Report

March 2025



Photo: Food distributions in Albohut Camp, Kassala.
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In Numbers March 2025

4 million people assisted



2.6 million people reached with in-kind food assistance



950,000 people received Cash-Based Transfers



462,000 people supported with nutrition rations



75,000 school children provided take-home rations

Situation Update

- In March, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) gained control of Khartoum from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) after a prolonged conflict in the city and state. The SAF captured key strategic locations in the city, including the Khartoum International Airport and Manshiya Bridge. The SAF's control of Khartoum was completed by 1 April 2025, effectively ending RSF's hold on the capital. Active conflict in Khartoum continues in Western and Southern Omdurman.
- There is a severe deterioration of food security in El Fasher town and Zamzam camp in North Darfur. The low food stocks in local markets exacerbated by a sharp rise in prices is putting additional pressure on a population who were already struggling to afford one meal a day.
- RSF shelling in El Fasher city affected the WFP compound, damaging assets. No injuries were reported among the outsourced security guards on night duty.
- Drone attacks in the Northern State caused damage to the airport, power stations, and military facilities. The electricity and water supply was cut off for several days in many locations including Port Sudan.
- Since the beginning of 2025, WFP has maintained consistent achievement in meeting cash programme targets across the country, except for value voucher distributions in Zamzam camp, which were disrupted due to security constraints. This level of performance could have been sustained if not for the impact of funding shortfalls.

Highlights

- WFP reached 4 million people in March, the highest number since the start of the conflict. Of this, 1.6 million people were in Famine and Risk of Famine areas, another record high number of people reached since the conflict started in April 2023.
- WFP also demonstrated strong operational capacity by delivering in-kind assistance to 2.6 million people in March — the highest level of food assistance provided since the onset of the conflict.
- Due to funding shortfalls for cash-based transfers (CBT), WFP was forced to reduce rations in famine areas from 100 percent to 70 percent. In risk-of-famine areas, rations were reduced from 70 percent to 50 percent rations.
- Pipeline breaks of nutrition products are expected in May due to funding shortfalls affecting both prevention and management of malnutrition programmes.
- UNHAS ceased flights from Port Sudan to Cairo starting 1 April, whilst the Nairobi flight frequency has been reduced to twice a week.
- WFP continues to support community kitchens in Khartoum, delivering hot meals to over 300,000 people in March. Many of the community kitchens supported by other agencies have shut down due to funding shortfalls.
- WFP noted a significant improvement in Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) convoy movement approvals in March, with 92 percent of submissions being approved.

Operational Update

- Since the last quarter of 2024, WFP has consistently assisted over 3 million people monthly, 3.7 million in January and 3.6 million in February.
- WFP delivered over 30,000 metric tons (mt) of assistance via the Adre border crossing since it reopened in August 2024. However, families are still facing emergency levels of hunger, and support must continue.
- In March, WFP sent the first convoy since the conflict began to Um Rawada and Al Rahad in North Kordofan State and conducted a security assessment in El Obeid along with UN Mine Action Service.
- Convoys en route to South and West Kordofan localities were on standby in El Obeid due to military operations. After delays for days due to lack of access beyond El Obeid, the convoys were rerouted to Al Sheikan, North Kordofan.
- WFP is prepositioning food in preparation of the upcoming rainy season (June-September), focusing on famine/Risk of Famine localities.
- The rainy season will render vast areas of the country inaccessible by road, interrupting critical supply lines and constraining humanitarian operations. Many key routes and bridges—already fragile or damaged by conflict—are at risk of complete collapse once the rains begin.
- WFP is exploring all options to deliver food to hard-to-reach areas impacted by the crisis and the rainy season. In-kind commodities will be prepositioned in Geneina and Nyala for the Darfurs and in Port Sudan, Kosti, Kassala, Damazine and Gedaref. A three-month supply of nutrition commodities will be dispatched to cooperating partners with storage capacity.
- The scale-up and expansion of digital cash transfers is continuing in hard-to-reach areas. WFP is working with the Bank of Khartoum, Blue Nile Mashreg Bank and RedRose.
- In March, WFP continued assistance for 26,600 people in famine-struck Zamzam camp through the use of digital cash transfers.

Logistics Update

- WFP dispatched 36,000 mt of food in March, a monthly record. Despite liquidity issues out of Port Sudan and the slowdown of operations due to Eid and Ramadan, this has been a breakthrough demonstrating increased capacity for dispatches.



Photo: WFP Convoy offloading in Khartoum State. © WFP

Key Challenges

- Access to El Fasher and Zamzam, North Darfur continue to be difficult due to continuous shelling and airstrikes.
- WFP continues to face access challenges due to the ongoing conflict and widespread blackout of cellular communications across the Darfurs and Kordofans. These disruptions are hindering implementation, food deliveries, and monitoring of food assistance while also limiting communication with field teams, delaying timely updates and impeding swift responses to urgent needs.
- The ongoing liquidity crisis, which emanates from the imposed limit on cash withdrawals, continues to impact operations nationwide. While WFP has implemented measures and agreements to minimize the impact on its operations, a longer-term solution will be necessary.

Clusters and Common Services

Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster is planning two inter-agency cargo movements in April: one from Port Sudan to Wad Madani and Al Managil in Aj Jazirah State (departure on 13 April), and another from Chad to Darfur (exact locations to be determined).
- The Logistics Cluster continues to provide free-to-user common storage services in Gedaref, Kassala, and Kosti, including temperature-controlled storage in Port Sudan. In March, 6,356 m³ of humanitarian supplies were stored for 12 organisations. In addition, five mobile storage units from the Logistics Cluster arrived in Zalingei to enhance the storage capacities of partners in Golo, Nertiti, Um Dukhun, and Zalingei in Central Darfur and Tawila in North Darfur.
- Additionally, 15 MSUs procured by the Logistics Cluster from UNHRD in Dubai are expected to arrive in Port Sudan by the end of April.

Logistics Cluster cont.

- To strengthen Chad-Sudan cross-border operations, the Logistics Cluster deployed two staff members to Abeche, Chad, supporting cross-border coordination.
- So far in 2025, the Logistics Cluster has supported 67 organizations with coordination, information management, and common services.



Photo: Food distributions in Albohut Camp, Kassala.
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Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

- ETC continues to provide internet connectivity to around 70 sites in seven areas, including Port Sudan, Kassala, Kosti, Damazine, Gedaref, Dongola, and Atbara.
- In March, the ETC installed connectivity at the new United Nations Office for Project Services office in Hai al Matar and completed Point-to-Point link optimization.
- The ETC also completed the procurement of a new technical Wifi management solution at a 75 percent discount that will enable nationwide user authentication.

The Food Security Cluster (FSL)

- In March 2025, 15 Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster members implemented activities, including distributing food baskets and cash for food, providing hot meals, and delivering emergency agriculture, livestock, and veterinary support. However, insecurity, bureaucratic impediments restricting access, critical underfunding of the 2025 humanitarian plan, and logistical hurdles severely hamper aid delivery, leaving significant gaps in assistance.

UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS)

- In March 2025, UNHAS Sudan facilitated the movement of over 500 humanitarian personnel and more than 5 mt of essential cargo on behalf of 59 agencies. Despite access restrictions, airspace limitations, and funding constraints, flights continued to five key destinations (two international and three domestic), ensuring sustained support to humanitarian operations across the country.
- The changes to UNHAS Sudan's airbridge operations are in effect as of 1 April 2025, with the cessation of Cairo airbridge flights. **Nairobi flights** are reduced to a twice-weekly service, operating on Sundays and Thursdays.
- The **Kassala route** will be served twice a week on Sundays and Thursdays. The **Dongola route** will continue with one weekly flight on Sundays. These adjustments are designed to maximise resource efficiency while maintaining vital service levels.
- The EU Aviation Safety Agency warns of high risk to civil aviation over Sudan due to conflict-related air threats, while UK Maritime Trade Operations reports GPS interference affecting vessel navigation near Port Sudan amid regional instability.

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