

Overview

Conflict and economic decline have driven about 20.3 million people across Sudan (over 42 percent of the country's population) into high levels of acute food insecurity, classified in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse) between July and September 2023. Of those, 14 million people (29 percent of the population) are under in IPC Phase 3, Crisis, and almost 6.3 million people (13 percent) are experiencing worse conditions in IPC Phase 4, Emergency.

Locations and states with active conflict register the highest presence of severely food insecure populations, including West Darfur (where 62 percent of the population is highly food insecure), Khartoum and South Kordofan (56 percent of the population is in IPC Phase 3 or above in these states), the Central, East and South Darfur as well as West Kordofan (53 percent of the population is in IPC Phase 3 or above in these states).

Since 15 April 2023, conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has deepened an already existing humanitarian crisis and further deteriorated the food security situation of people in several urban and rural areas. The escalation of violence in Khartoum, Greater Darfur, and Greater Kordofan has triggered the large-scale displacement of 2.6 million people across all states of Sudan - forcing 757,230 people to flee to neighbouring countries.

The conflict has also resulted in critical damage and destruction of infrastructure, including healthcare facilities, schools, power and water sources and telecommunications. Wide looting of markets, banks, industries and public buildings led to an increased shortage of essential services, food and non-food items across the country - further aggravating the fragile food insecurity and malnutrition. The price of food and essential commodities has soared, limiting access to the market for the population. According to reports from numerous states, including those unaffected by the ongoing fighting, the conflict between SAF and RSF in Sudan is endangering the production of staple crops this year.

During the projection period of October 2023 to February 2024, around 15 million people (the highest ever recorded figure coinciding with Sudan's harvesting season) are likely to face IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse) conditions. This includes more than 3.8 million people likely to be in Phase 4 and 11.2 million people likely to be in Phase 3. Out of the 15 million people in IPC Phase 3 or above, 60 percent are in Greater Darfur, Greater Kordofan and Khartoum State, with the highest caseload of Phase 3 and 4 in these regions. Greater Darfur alone represents 29 percent of the total population in Phase 3 or above out of the total 60 percent. Across all the states, around eight localities from the Greater Darfur are classified in Phase 4. While we expect some improvements in production, most localities will still be in Phase 3 in the projected period.

Key drivers



Conflict and insecurity

The conflict and ensuing insecurity that erupted just over 100 days ago have resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and mass population displacement. Destruction of productive assets, disruption of supply chains and trade routes - limiting access to markets - and destruction of infrastructure and services have left countless people highly food insecure.



High food prices

The conflict shaking Sudan has dealt a devastating blow to the heart of the country's economy in the capital Khartoum - disrupting internal trade routes, threatening imports and triggering a cash crunch. The macroeconomic environment substantially worsened, and the Sudanese economy will likely slide deeper into an economic crisis in 2023 amid persistent conflict.



Climate shock and hazards

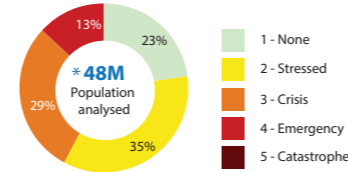
A forecasted below-average main season rainfall will negatively affect agricultural crop production as well as water stocks and pasture conditions for livestock, in turn impeding access to food.



1st Projection: Acute Food Insecurity | July - September 2023

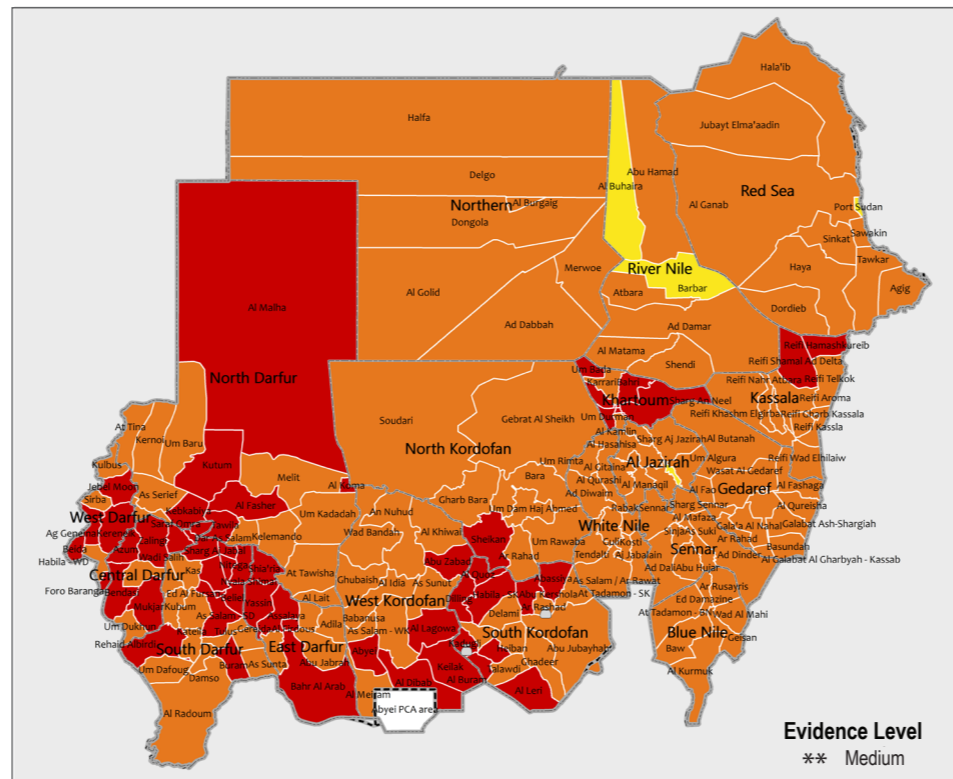


Over 20.3 million people in Sudan are likely experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between July and September 2023



42% of the analysed population of 48 million are experiencing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between July and September 2023

1st Projected Acute Food Insecurity Situation | July - September 2023



Key assumptions for the projection periods



Conflict and insecurity likely to persist: The ongoing conflict in urban and rural areas (at a minimum, fighting in key transport hub routes and cities) will likely persist for an extended period. While the conflict remains challenging to predict, intercommunal violence in Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan will likely increase during the outlook period because of the continued dispute over land and natural resources, further exacerbated by the cyclical nature of attacks.



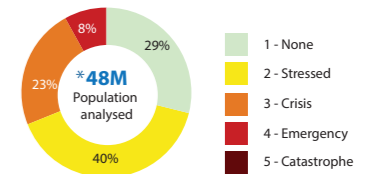
High food prices likely to remain high: With expectations of reduced harvest given the impact of the conflict on crop production, prices are likely to remain typically high in the post-harvest period. In the projection period, staple grain prices are expected to escalate 200-700 percent above the five-year average and 100-200 percent above last year. Access to staple food commodities in Sudan will continue to be constrained by significantly high prices, low purchasing power, and limited cash retrieval. The high transportation cost - either due to fuel scarcity or the levies and royalties imposed by the RSF on some roads linking Khartoum and Kosti to Kordofan and Darfur regions as well as those interconnecting these states, on top of the risk associated with travelling through insecure routes, will induce cereal prices to increase further. Remittances from outside will maintain the purchasing power for essential food items.



2nd Projection: Acute Food Insecurity | October 2023 - February 2024

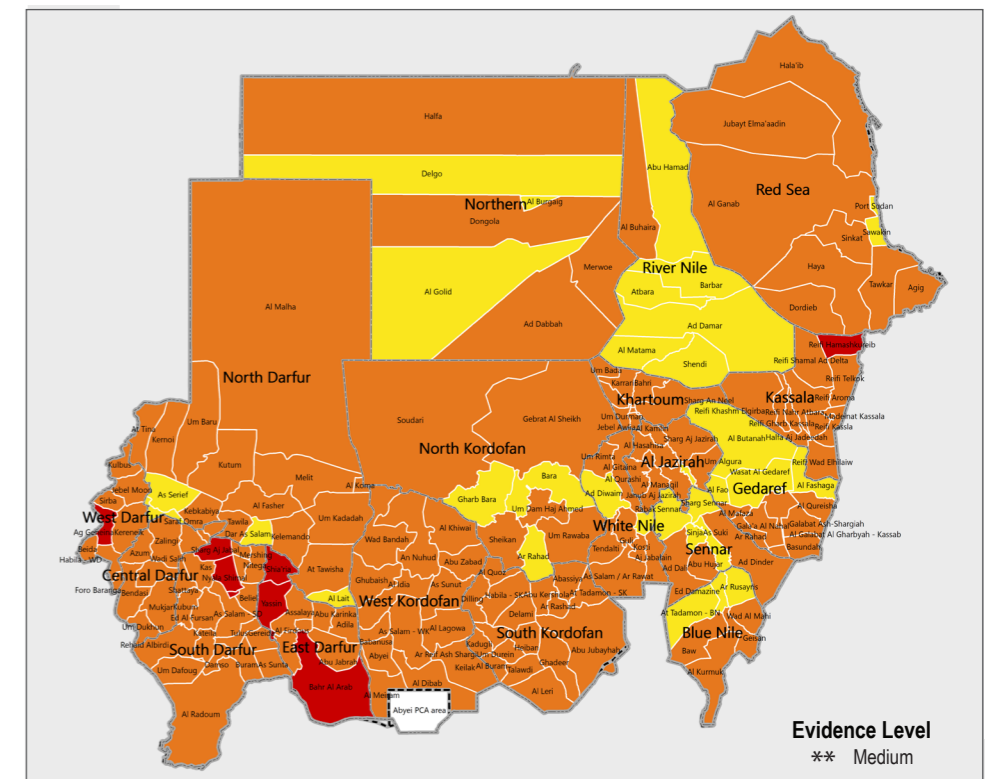


Over 15 million people in Sudan will likely experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between October 2023 and February 2024



31% of the analysed population of 48 million are likely to experience high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between October 2023 and February 2024

2nd Projected Acute Food Insecurity Situation | October 2023 - February 2024



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification



IPC Analysis Partners

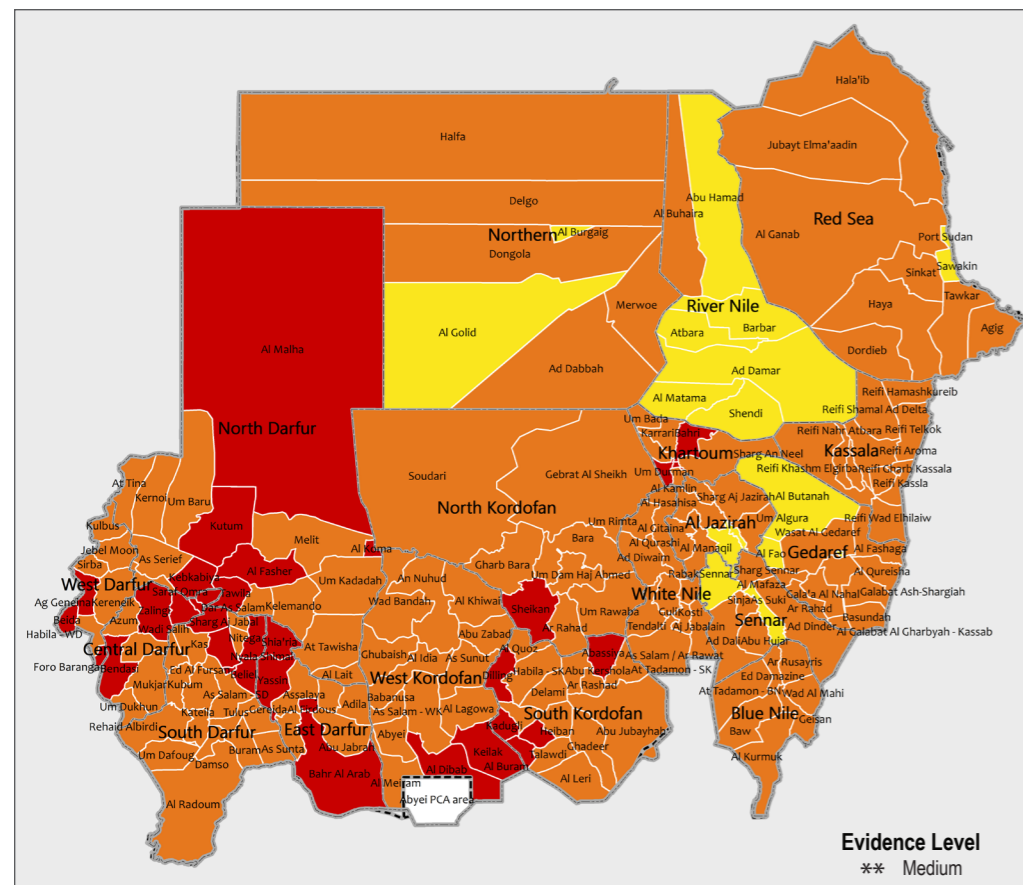


Publication date: August 2, 2023, *IPC population data is based on population estimates by the TWG analysis team based on the Bureau of Statistics projections for 2023 | Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical and political boundaries. For more information please contact ipc@fao.org.

Current: Acute Food Insecurity | June 2023

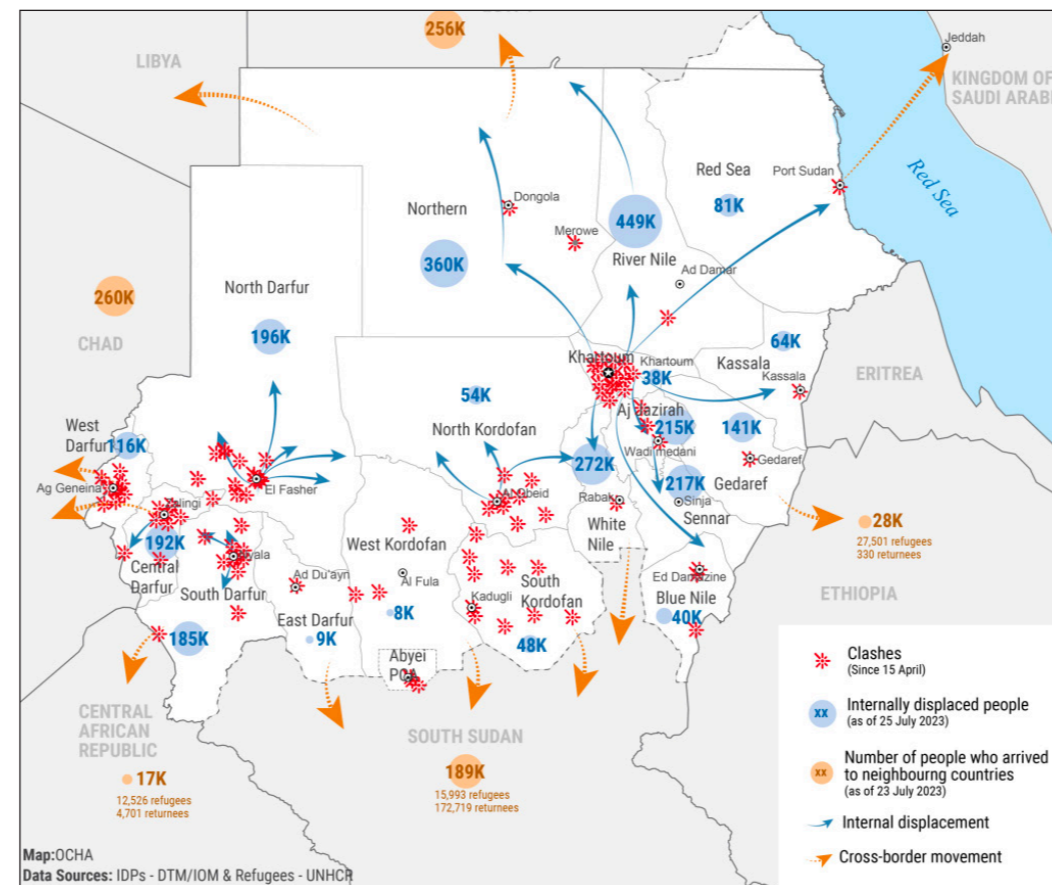
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Over 16.9 million people in Sudan experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in June 2023



Conflict and insecurity in Sudan | July - September 2023

In over 100 days, the eruption of armed conflict in Sudan has escalated to a full-blown crisis. The armed clashes have devastated the civilian population, leaving thousands dead and injured and over 2.6 million people displaced. The events of the last three months have deepened Sudan's already dire food security situation.



How conflict and insecurity impact food insecurity



Population displacement: The escalation of violence in Khartoum, Greater Darfur, and Greater Kordofan has triggered the large-scale displacement of the local population – estimated to be 2.6 million people* – into other states of Sudan and forced 757,230 people to flee into neighbouring countries.



Destruction of civilian infrastructure: Many people are stranded where they are. The conflict also resulted in critical damage and destruction to key civilian infrastructure, including healthcare facilities, schools, power and water sources as well as telecommunications. Wide looting of markets, banks, industries, public buildings and private residences has also led to an increased shortage of essential food and non-food items across the country.



Impediment of humanitarian access: At least 18 aid workers have been killed and many more injured since the start of the conflict. More than two dozen have been detained, while some remain unaccounted for. Humanitarian facilities have also been attacked, with at least 50 humanitarian warehouses looted, 82 offices ransacked and more than 200 vehicles stolen.



High food prices and disruptions to markets: The conflict has led to the destruction and disruption of the market in the most affected areas. According to the (CFSAM), total cereal production for the 2022–23 summer and winter seasons is estimated to be around 7.4 million metric tons – 45 percent above the output obtained in the previous year and 13 percent above the average of the past five years.



Economic decline: Before the outbreak of the conflict, Sudan had already been facing an ongoing poor macroeconomic situation resulting from the continued political and security instability, reduced access to foreign currency reserves, high inflation and persistent local currency depreciation.

Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA)

The IPC Technical Working Group used the food assistance data from the Food Security Cluster (FSC), which provided the total number of beneficiaries and the quantity (tonnes) of HFA delivered during the three-analysis periods. The planned HFA figures incorporated into the projection analyses are based on anticipated needs, confirmed, and committed to being funded and delivered, with available resources in the pipeline. The planned figures were shared with the analysts and duly incorporated into the analysis. However, due to the ongoing conflict in some areas where access challenges are experienced, the delivery of planned assistance may be limited.

In Central and South Darfur, four locations received considerable humanitarian aid during the current period (June 2023), with the majority of the recipients receiving about half of the ration (50 percent Kcal), according to reports from the major humanitarian organisations. The number rises to include eight localities (in Central, North, South, and West Darfur, South Kordofan, and Khartoum) from July to September 2023, coinciding with the peak lean seasons in Sudan. According to the prediction for October 2023 – February 2024 based on IPC criteria (Planned, Funded, and Likely to Reach Beneficiaries), around 17 areas (in Central, North, South, and West Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Khartoum) are expected to receive sizeable humanitarian aid.

Recommended actions



De-escalation of conflict
The parties to the conflict in Sudan must engage in peacebuilding and negotiation to stop the devastating conflict and allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians – especially those most in need. This should be impartial and conducted without any adverse distinction, subject to their right of control.



Lifesaving humanitarian response
Urgent and timely scaling-up of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance is required to save lives and prevent the total deterioration of livelihoods in IPC Phase 3 or above. Humanitarian interventions are urgently needed for vulnerable communities in the country, with a particular focus on the IDPs and refugees.



Livelihood support
Urgent scale-up of agricultural production and productivity by providing inputs to small scale farmers and hearing communities to face immediate needs, while continuing efforts to enhance resilience to climate change and find sustainable solutions to the increasing competition over natural resources.



Expand access to health services
Scale-up and improve access to basic services, social support and medical requirements, including WASH and health service delivery throughout the year. This should also include emergency nutrition, especially during the lean season.



Social protection programs
Scale-up social protection programs targeting the most vulnerable households through Social Protection Register, home gardening and small animals rearing, to improve nutrition and livelihood conditions.