

Food Security Cluster Global Partners Meeting

Country Focus: **Sudan**



“Food security and livelihood challenges in Sudan as the war enters its seventh month: How can coordination help to mitigate the polycrisis of scarcity, security, access and diversion?”

Sudan NNGOs Forum: Samah Salman
November 15th, 2023

04:30am EST / 10:30am Rome / 11:30am Khartoum



Sudanese man harvesting sorghum in the Gezira Scheme, one of the largest irrigation projects in the world (pre-war).



Food distribution to Sudanese refugees in Chad (post-war).

Contents

1. Sudan: SDGs and Economic Potential
2. Sudan's Polycrisis
3. Conflict and Humanitarian Catastrophe
4. Sudan as a Host of Refugees
5. Displaced Sudanese: Internally and Externally
7. Sudan's Economic Shocks
8. Food Insecurity and Looming Famine
9. Food Insecurity and Women
10. Sudan: Humanitarian Assistance in 2023
11. Sudan NNGOs Forum: Achievements and Opportunities
12. Challenges Hindering Sudan NNGO Operations
13. NNGOs Coping Mechanisms to Overcome Challenges
13. Flexible Funding and Localization of Coordination
14. Food Security Programming and Cash Transfers
15. Food Security Programming: Gender
16. Agriculture and Livelihoods Programming



Sudan: SDGs and Economic Potential

1. African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
2. Fight against climate change
3. Potential breadbasket of Africa
 - Ranked 11th in arable land, after Ukraine
 - Gold, uranium, diamonds, minerals, oil
 - 100M heads livestock, 45M heads poultry
 - Gum arabic
 - Solar, wind energy
 - Nile river, rainfall
 - Sugar, ethanol
 - Sorghum, sesame



Sudan's Polycrisis

1. Conflict, Insecurity & Civil Unrest

- 2018 – 2019 Revolution
- 2021 Military Coup
- 2023 War

2. Displacement

- Highest child displacement in the world: 3M
- Highest number IDPs in the world (existing + new): 5.5M
- 9M children out of school

3. Economic Shocks

- Runaway Inflation, Oct. 2023: 256.2%, 3rd highest in the world
- Increasing cost of living
- Weakening purchasing power

4. Climate Change

- Ranked #6 in African countries most vulnerable to climate change
- Droughts, floods, desertification, locusts

5. Food Security & Looming Famine

- Scarcity
 - 42% of Sudanese are acutely food insecure; 51% in need of humanitarian assistance
- Access
 - SAF, RSF
 - UN OCHA platform

Conflict and Humanitarian Catastrophe

- Glorious Revolution of 2018 – 2019
- Coup in Oct. 2021
- War on Apr. 15th, 2023
- 10,000 deaths (official), SGBV, lack of food, water, electricity, 75% of hospitals out of service
- UN SG and UN HC pronouncements
- Saudi-US “Jeddah Talks”
 - No Ceasefire has held to date
 - Nov. 7th, 2023, Humanitarian Agreement: “Reaffirming their obligations under the May 11, 2023, Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, both the SAF and RSF committed to:”
 1. **“Participate in a joint humanitarian forum led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) to resolve impediments to humanitarian access and deliveries of assistance”**
 2. **“Identify points of contact to assist with movements of humanitarian personnel and assistance”**
 - High need to increase access by coordinating aid deliveries and protect supply chains
 - High need to reduce diversion with delivery compliance and transparency mechanisms



Sudan as a Host of Refugees

- Sudan: 6th largest host of refugees in the world and the 2nd in Africa (Pre-war)
- **1.1M refugees as of Mar. 2023**
 - South Sudan: 624,235
 - Ethiopia: 120,611
 - Eritrea: 91,128
 - Syria: 66,081
 - CAR: 19,587
 - Chad: 2,029
 - Yemen: 1,538
 - Various: 1,036

The Countries Hosting the Most Refugees

Number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate being hosted as of mid-2021



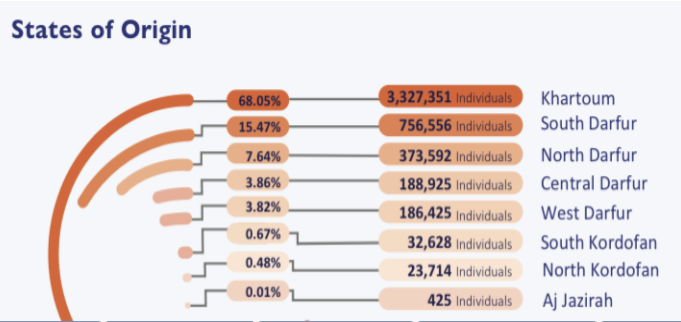
* 99.9% "Venezuelans displaced abroad"
Excludes Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.
Source: UNHCR



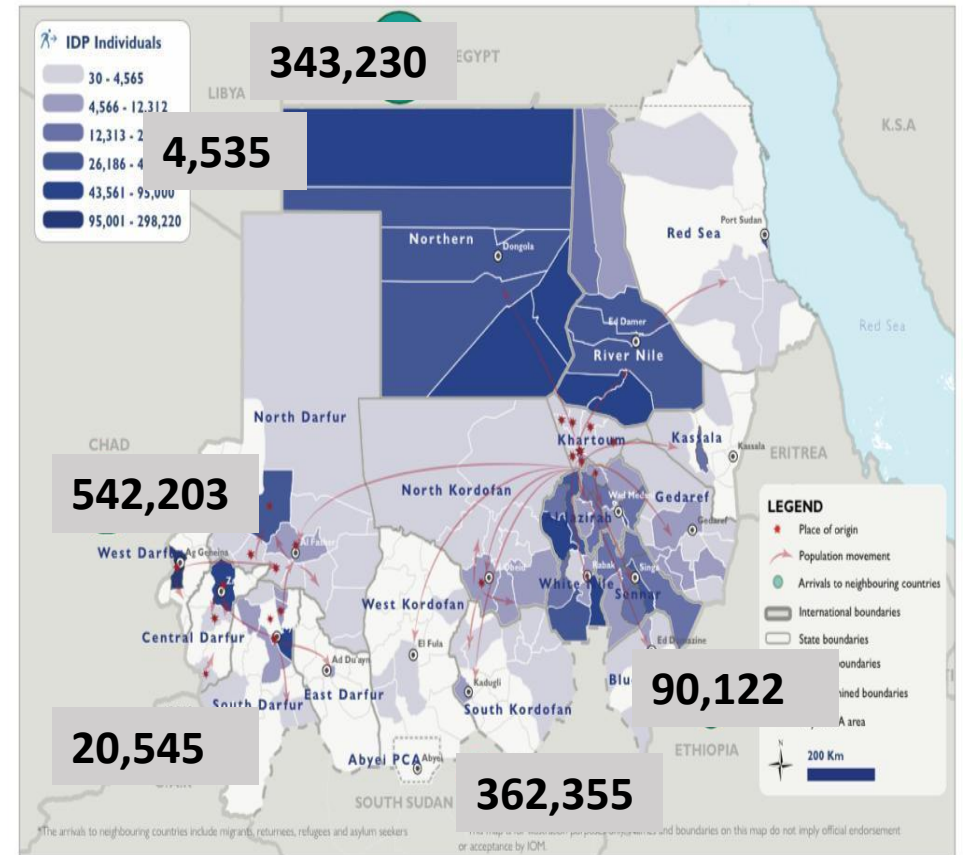
Displaced Sudanese: Internally and Externally

- 6.252M Sudanese Total Displaced as of Nov. 2023
- Sudanese IDPs: 4.889M as of Nov. 7th, 2023

- 1.363M Sudanese Fled to Neighboring Countries as of Nov. 8th, 2023
- The U.N. refugee agency projects that 1.8M+ Sudanese will flee the country by the end of 2023. This estimate is almost double what the agency projected in May 2023



States of Displacement	Monthly02 2-Nov-2023	Snapshot09 7-Nov-2023	Difference	% Total IDPs	Number of locations
Aj Jazirah	404,661	406,936	2,275 ↑	8.32%	1,216
Blue Nile	54,005	54,801	796 ↑	1.12%	93
Central Darfur	300,065	296,565	3,500 ↓	6.07%	19
East Darfur	536,680	538,130	1,450 ↑	11.01%	20
Gedaref	270,496	273,021	2,525 ↑	5.58%	230
Kassala	110,170	112,302	2,132 ↑	2.30%	148
Khartoum	64,030	62,785	1,245 ↓	1.28%	59
North Darfur	340,838	349,208	8,370 ↑	7.14%	92
North Kordofan	100,686	109,369	8,683 ↑	2.24%	394
Northern	362,516	364,541	2,025 ↑	7.46%	261
Red Sea	124,470	124,910	440 ↑	2.55%	114
River Nile	577,568	581,958	4,390 ↑	11.90%	635
Sennar	325,836	334,934	9,098 ↑	6.85%	224
South Darfur	599,538	586,518	13,020 ↓	12.00%	39
South Kordofan	97,336	96,819	517 ↓	1.98%	337
West Darfur	112,650	118,575	5,925 ↑	2.43%	31
West Kordofan	58,421	59,227	806 ↑	1.21%	406
White Nile	416,328	419,017	2,689 ↑	8.56%	873
Total	4,856,294	4,889,616	33,322	100.00%	5,191



Sudan's Economic Shocks

- According to the IMF, Sudan's inflation rate, in October 2023, was 256.2%, the third highest in the world
- The parallel exchange rate has hit 1,000 SDG/USD, at the start of the war, it was 600 SDG/USD
- Retail sorghum prices have increased by 75% in Omderman and Kadugli, compared to pre-war
- Imported wheat grain is currently about at 25% of pre-war quantities

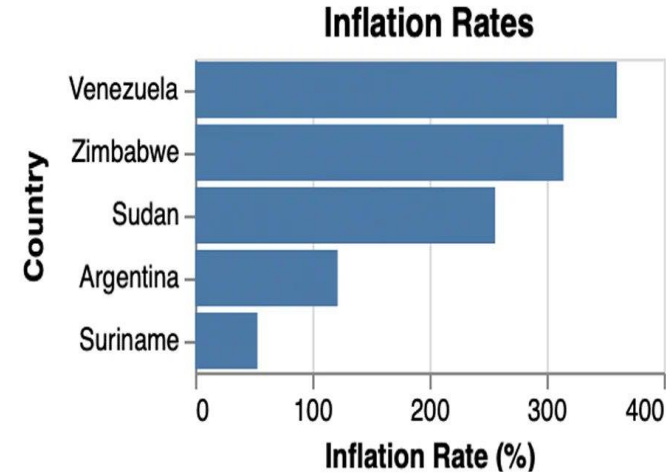
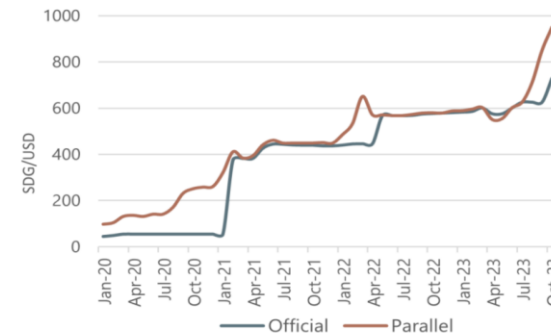


Table 1. Imported quantities of wheat grain (metric tons), March to September 2023

	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Wheat	262,488	121,299	124,600	113,156	68,650	27,000	69,900

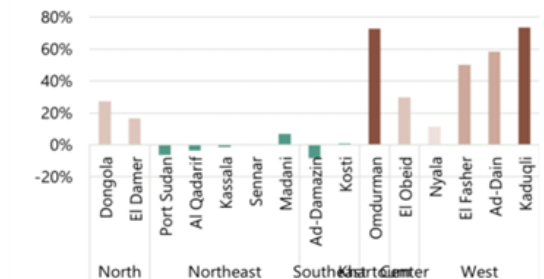
Source: Plant Quarantine department - Plant protection General directorate - Federal Ministry of Agriculture

Official and parallel market exchange rates, January 2020 – September 2023



Source: FEWS NET, data from almashhadalsudani.com

Percent change in retail sorghum prices from March to September 2023



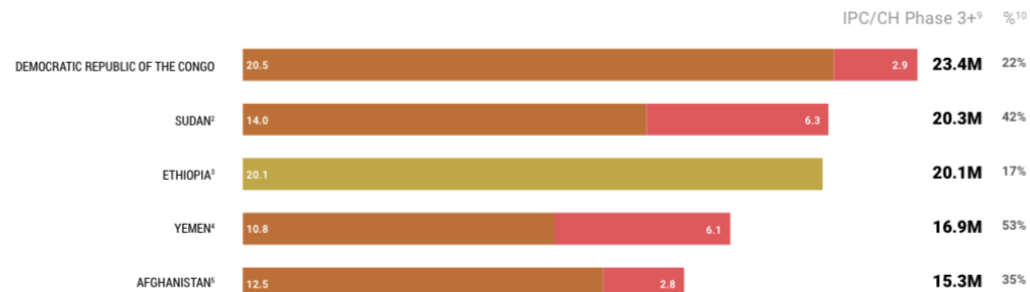
Source: FEWS NET, data from Food and Agricultural Market Information System (FAMIS)

Food Insecurity and Looming Famine

- Sudan is a Nov. 2023 – Apr. 2024 early warning hunger hot spot of highest concern
- Sudan ranked #2 globally in number of people in acute food insecurity in hunger hotspots (after DRC)
 - 14.0M IPC/CH Phase 3
 - 6.3M IPC/CH Phase 4
 - 20.3M, or 42% of 48M popl'n acutely food insecure
- 24.7M in need of humanitarian assistance (51% of popl'n)

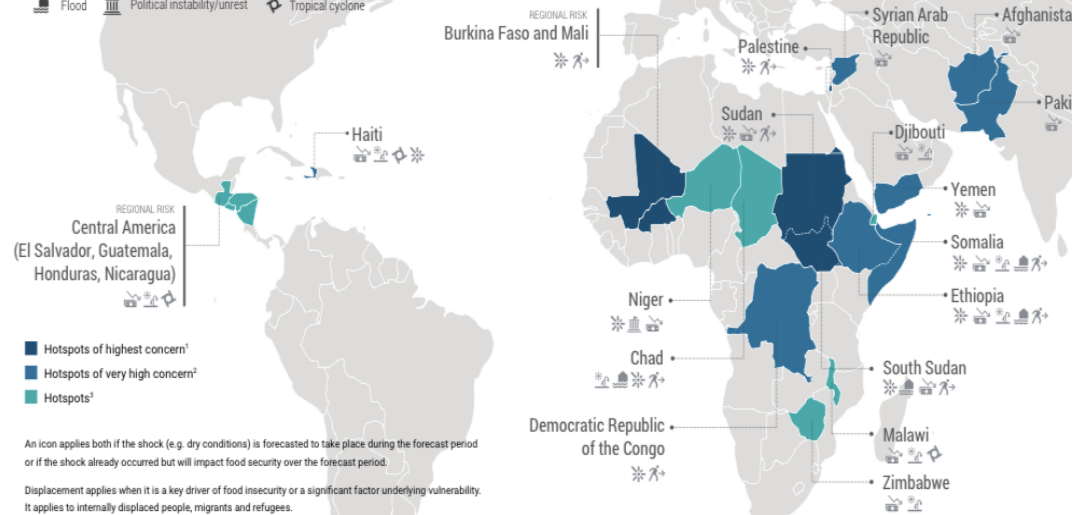
Number of people in acute food insecurity in hunger hotspots

in 2023–2024 (where available,¹ most recent data), in millions



Early warning hunger hotspots November 2023 to April 2024

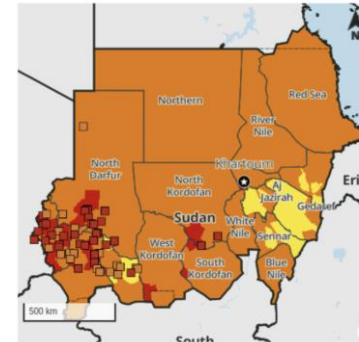
Key drivers and aggravating factors



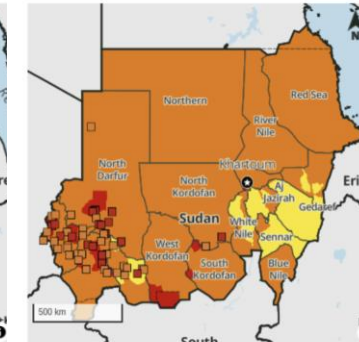
Food Insecurity and Looming Famine

- **Acute food security trends** in hunger hotspots of highest and very high concern are driven by the conflict, erratic rainfall, agricultural harvest failure due to lack of inputs, financing/disruption to the banking system and workers, economic devastation and internal displacement
- **Domestic cereal production** satisfies 40% of the needs of the country
- Highly unfavorable prospects for the forthcoming **summer crop harvest**, as well as the winter wheat harvest in Mar. 2024
- In Khartoum, Darfur, Kordofan, insecurity prevented farmers from accessing fields, **reducing cultivated area**
- The **NDVI** chart shows the deterioration in the vegetative state of farmlands in Nyala
- **Animal disease outbreaks** are expected to increase due to significant disruptions to veterinary services, vaccinations, etc.

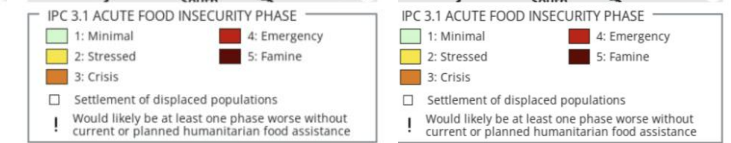
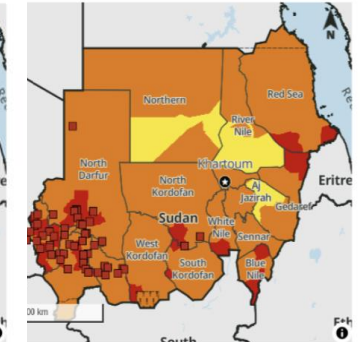
Current food security outcomes, October 2023



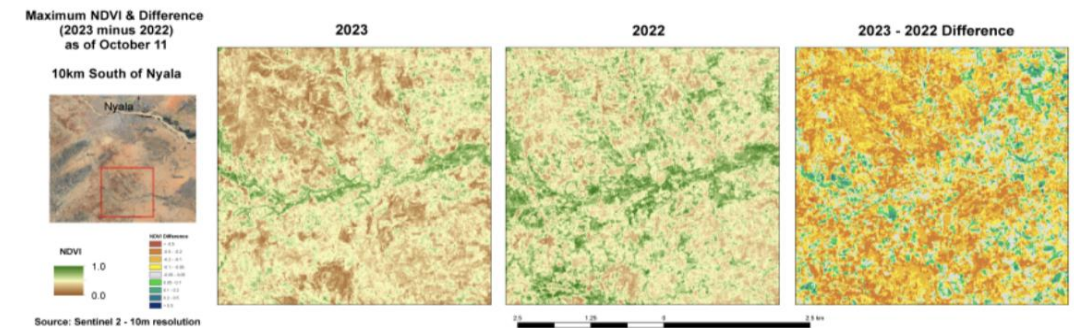
Projected food security outcomes, October 2023 - January 2024



Projected food security outcomes, February - May 2024



Maximum NDVI & Difference (2023 minus 2022) as of October 11, 2023



Source: FEWS NET/USGS

Food Insecurity and Women



- **More than two-thirds of Sudanese impacted by loss of income** due to conflict across all states, and 77% impacted by a shift in livelihoods
 - 58% for men, compared to 44% of women
- 81% of Sudanese have reported reducing their food intake and/or changing the way they eat
 - **59% of female-headed households are more likely to reduce food intake than male-headed households, at 47%**
- 55% of women have experienced a disproportionate change in eating less nutritious foods, compared to 33% of men
- Women, pregnant and lactating women, female-headed households, rural households, people living with disabilities, and older persons are most susceptible to food insecurity
- Most households report a lack of income and safety risks as the main barriers to accessing food, rather than lack of food availability at markets
- **Women are playing important roles in the humanitarian response, but they remain sidelined from humanitarian decision-making**
 - Even though they have been on the frontlines of mobilizing emergency humanitarian assistance quickly to address urgent needs for newly displaced families and women survivors of gender-based violence

Sudan: Humanitarian Assistance in 2023

- **Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan: Total Need is \$2.57B domestic need**
 - **\$3.00B when including neighboring countries' support requirements (Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan)**
- Total humanitarian aid to reach Sudan in 2023: \$970M (only 32% funded)
 - Out of total, 90%, \$867M, funded by USAID, 10% funded by other international donors
 - Majority of which is channeled through UN and International NGOs
- The Saudi-US Jeddah Talks have allowed brief opening of humanitarian corridors which has allowed humanitarian assistance to reach 2.5M Sudanese in previously inaccessible insecure areas since the start of the war on Apr. 15th, 2023
- 7.98M FSL Sector beneficiaries
- 2.37M Food assistance beneficiaries
- 5.67M Livelihood beneficiaries
- Main categories of Sudan humanitarian assistance
 1. Emergency response
 2. Civil society and local initiatives, women's groups, youth groups, human rights monitoring and atrocities prevention, peacebuilding, rehabilitation, medical units
 3. Dialogue and civic engagement



Sudan NNGOs Forum: Achievements and Opportunities

- Sudan NNGOs Forum has over 800 NGOs and CSOs as members
- **Objectives are:**
 - Unified NGOs and CSOs coordination with government, donors, UN agencies and INGOs
 - NNGOs capacity building and strengthening, policy and advocacy, citizen mobilization, governance monitoring and civic space campaigns, communication, knowledge management and learning
 - To effectively respond to the humanitarian and development needs in Sudan
- **Sudan NNGO Forum Achievements:** By Nov. 2nd and after 200 days of war:
 - Have reached over 2 Million people with medicine, food, water, shelter and psychosocial support
 - Have reached over 1 million farmers with seeds with support of FAO and donors
- **Sudan NNGO Forum Opportunities:**
 - To participate in Nov. 7th, 2023, Humanitarian Agreement: “Reaffirming their obligations under the May 11, 2023, Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, both the SAF and RSF committed to”:
 1. Participate in a joint humanitarian forum led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) to resolve impediments to humanitarian access and deliveries of assistance
 2. Identify points of contact to assist with movements of humanitarian personnel and assistance

Challenges Hindering Sudan NNGOs Operations

Security

Insecurity and looting led to the **loss of capital assets and capacities of 130 NNGOs through looting, with a value of \$500M**

Lack of safe corridors; few technical and humanitarian staff, which is adversely affecting delivery

Risk of detention, injury of humanitarian workers

19 aid workers have died this year

Access

Lack of cash affecting delivery

Fuel shortages and costs hampering the movement of humanitarian staff and supplies

Bureaucratic impediments, i.e. Visa issuance to humanitarian works by HAC (Humanitarian Aid Commission)

Diversion

Confiscation of supplies and theft of aid and re-selling of aid in market

Imposition of rent-seeking impediments



NNGOs Coping Mechanisms to Overcome Challenges

Security

Coordination: with local communities and both war parties to facilitate the movement of staff

Protection committees: established by NGOs with local community members to identify and manage disputes/ conflicts between farmers and pastoralists over resources; Distribute seeds, protect crops and ensure success of farming season

Access

Cash: Rely on local traders to provide cash, esp. in remote and hard to reach areas, with commissions up to 15%

Bank apps: Bankak, Fawri, Hawala are also used

Staff: Localized response by relying on neighborhood committees; recruit local staff based in project site area to reduce movements

Coordination: with local traders to get necessary items to project sites using local networks with actors on the ground

Diversion

Networks: Use of personal connections and networks on the ground

Coordination: with community leaders and emergency rooms to coordinate with actors in good time

Participate: in Joint Humanitarian Forum created by Jeddah Ceasefire Talks on Nov. 7th, to be led by UN OCHA to resolve impediments

Flexible Funding and Localization of Coordination

Recommendations:

- 1. Special fund for rebuilding of NNGOs and CSOs stolen and lost assets**
 - a. Support in recouping substantial inventory losses
 - b. Support in replacement of capital asset losses

- 2. Adapt budgets to NNGOs by increasing flexible, unrestricted and long-term funding**
 - a. Should be allocated to overheads, institutional development, investing in systems and staff capacity strengthening
 - b. Should include training and development to help retain staff and institutional memory

- 3. Risk sharing instead of outsourcing of risk to NNGOs**
 - a. Partnership on project-level strategy and design instead of only implementation phase
 - b. Support NNGOs in resources commensurate to risk borne in dealing with local, state and Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) bureaucracy
 - c. Disproportionate burden of fiduciary, reputational and security risks vis a vis project funding structure for NNGOs and CSOs

Food Security Programming and Cash Transfers

Recommendations:

1. Food banks to be set up in secure areas

- a. Need stores, resources and labor

2. Increase access to local markets and markets of neighboring countries (Chad, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Egypt)

- a. Minimize long-haul transport which increases looting risks across supply chain and insecure areas
- b. Reduce dependence on Port Sudan supply chain
- c. Reduce dependence on expensive fuel

3. Unrestricted cash transfers and vouchers to be boosted

- a. To be able to operate in insecure areas, hard to access areas and “the last mile”
- b. Utilize local agents in areas with lack of access to banks
- c. Support people with lack of access to phones
- d. To boost incomes of families and individuals who have fallen below poverty line, with weak purchasing power
- e. Similar to Sudan Family Support Program (SFSP), or “Thamarat” social safety net program for poor households pre-military coup



Food Security Programming - Gender

Recommendations:

- 1. Women must be meaningfully incorporated into the humanitarian response**
 - a. To ensure aid delivery reaches those most in need
- 2. Capacity building to elevate the capabilities of female leadership**
 - a. Move toward a more gender equitable Sudan post-conflict
 - b. To address humanitarian needs hand-in-hand with nexus solutions that strengthen existing structures and prioritize cash-based assistance, promoting local solutions and resilience
- 3. Launch income-generating and livelihood diversification activities and cash-for-work programs as appropriate for the context**
 - a. Should be in consultation with local women's groups to mitigate against perpetuating harmful norms
- 4. Target the most vulnerable populations such as pregnant women with life-saving food assistance**
 - a. Ensure that information regarding the availability of food assistance is accessible to the most vulnerable, including non-displaced residents hosting displaced families



Agriculture and Livelihoods Programming

Recommendations:

- On Nov. 9th, FAO launched an emergency response plan to protect and restore agricultural livelihoods amid conflict with \$123 million needed for urgent support to 10.1 million people in 17 most food-insecure states

1. Capacity building and training for rural, agricultural and livestock livelihoods opportunities, with:

- a. Focus on youth
- b. Focus on rain-fed production
- c. Inclusion of livestock and animal production and fisheries

2. Agricultural production and resilience support to smallholder farmers and co-operatives, including women farmers

- a. Technical packages including drought-resistant seeds, inputs, fertilizers, agricultural machinery and extension services
- b. Price incentives for farmers to sell production profitably into the market (i.e. high price of fuel)
- c. Sufficient financing to fund Agricultural Bank of Sudan (ABS)
- d. Irrigation investments into cash crop areas
- e. Support for production of cereal grains that can be cultivated easily

