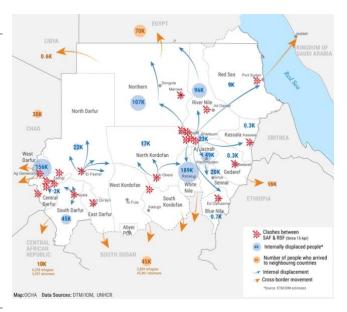


Sudan: Clashes between SAF and RSF Flash Update No. 11

10 May 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hostilities between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have lasted for 26 consecutive days.
- The number of people displaced inside Sudan has more than doubled since last week, with more than 730,000 people currently internally displaced due to the fighting.
- Humanitarian actors continue to work on expanding humanitarian operations and reaching those most in need.
- However, recent days have seen further looting and attacks against humanitarian premises, significantly hampering the response.
- Additional funding is urgently needed.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Clashes between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid

Support Forces (RSF) have continued for 26 consecutive days, especially in and around Khartoum, as of 10 May. At least 604 people have been killed and over 5,100 injured since the fighting began, according to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) as of 9 May. Out of these, 199 deaths and 3,157 injuries were in Khartoum. In addition, in West Darfur at least 450 people died during recent violent clashes in Ag Geneina and surrounding areas, according to FMoH.

The number of people displaced inside Sudan has more than doubled in a week, from 334,000 people on 1 May to about 736,000 people on 9 May, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Displaced people have been recorded in 15 out of the country's 18 states. The states hosting the highest number of displaced people are White Nile (which hosts 25.6 per cent of all displaced people), West Darfur (21.2 per cent) and Northern (14.4 per cent). The highest number of displaced people have come from Khartoum (502,200 people, approximately 68.2 per cent of the total internally displaced), followed by West Darfur (21.8 per cent of displaced people) and South Darfur (6 per cent). In addition, more than 150,000 people have moved from Sudan to neighboring Chad, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Egypt and Ethiopia, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

Over 80,100 of the recently displaced people in Sudan are women and girls of reproductive age (15-49 years old), among whom nearly 8,000 women are pregnant and in need of essential sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, including basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care services, according to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). Around 880 pregnant women among the newly displaced are expected to give birth in the next month. Women and girls who are on the move, displaced in temporary shelters and deprived of basic needs face an increased risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

Healthcare facilities continue to be attacked and occupied by parties to the conflict. In Khartoum, fewer than one-fifth of health facilities remain fully functional, and 60 per cent are not functioning at all, according to WHO. A maternity hospital was attacked in Khartoum on 4 May, according to UNFPA. Following the initial alarm over the occupation of the National Public Health Laboratory, WHO conducted a follow up in-depth risk assessment and noted that the laboratory cannot perform its vital role in diagnosing disease because of lack of staff, the occupation of the facility and the lack of electricity to run its equipment. In West Darfur's Ag Geneina town, the building of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) was reportedly burned down on 6 May. Ag Geneina Teaching Hospital, the major referral hospital in the state, has been directly affected by fighting and parts of the hospital have been looted, according to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

Shortages of food, water, fuel and cash in many parts of the country continue. In eastern Sudan—many parts of which usually rely on essential supplies from Khartoum, which has become impossible with the ongoing crisis—the prices of goods have increased almost four-fold compared to prior 15 April, according to humanitarian partners on the ground. In Blue Nile, markets in Ed Damazine are reportedly open but prices of the communities are increasing. Many banks across the country, especially in areas affected by conflict, remain closed.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Despite the challenges faced since conflict erupted on 15 April, many humanitarian partners remain present and are continuing operations in Sudan. Given the varying security situation and capacity to operate by location, partners are working to adjust and adapt their programmes in light of the changed context.



On 5 May 2023, WFP distributes food in Kassala. Photo: WFP/Sudan

Since restarting food distributions last week, the World Food Programme (WFP) has reached more than 35,500 people across Gedaref and Kassala, with distributions also underway in White Nile. WFP will need nearly 13,000 metric tonnes of food to reach some 384,000 people across the states of Gedaref, Aj Jazirah, Kassala and White Nile as planned, in addition to the 8,000 metric tons of food stocks available in Port Sudan. In the coming days, WFP is expecting the arrival of two ships carrying food and supplies to treat moderate acute malnutrition. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), meanwhile, has distributed food for nearly 1,700 displaced people in Wad Medani and is supporting community-run kitchens.

Despite imminent personal risk, health workers are reactivating several health facilities in North and South Darfur to provide emergency, maternity, pediatric and chronic diseases treatment services. However, emergency medical supplies which are ready for distribution from WHO's warehouse in Port Sudan to Aj Jazirah, Sennar, Kassala, White Nile and Gedaref states—including trauma and surgical kits, which are urgently required—are still undergoing clearances in Port Sudan.

At least four relief flights have arrived in Port Sudan in recent days. The Qatar Charity (QC), in coordination with the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), has sent 40 metric tons of basic food aid, including dates, rice, sugar and oils, through a Qatari airlift flight. A European Union Humanitarian Air Bridge flight has transported

30 metric tons of relief items to Port Sudan. Two planes carrying 20 metric tons of relief supplies reportedly arrived at the Port Sudan International Airport on 9 May 2023 from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Humanitarian partners continue to engage communities to seek their views on how to ensure the response is most effective. In Aj Jazirah, most displaced people told an assessment team that they would prefer cash—as opposed to inkind assistance—and some partners are considering multi-purpose cash assistance, through vouchers, in Gedaref and Aj Jazirah. However, the continued cash flow problems in Sudan are likely to pose challenges.

In the meantime, attacks against humanitarian premises have continued, with major consequences for the response, Additional humanitarian warehouses have been looted in Khartoum in the past few days. The UN Secretary-General has condemned the looting and reiterated the need for parties to protect and respect humanitarian workers and facilities, including hospitals, stating that "the needs of the Sudanese people, who are caught up in a humanitarian catastrophe, must come first."

BACKGROUND & FUNDING

Before the conflict erupted, humanitarian needs across Sudan had reached record levels, with 15.8 million people—about a third of the total population—requiring humanitarian assistance, according to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). This is 1.5 million more people in need of humanitarian assistance than in 2022, the highest since 2011. Prior to the current conflict, humanitarian organizations aimed to reach 12.5 million of the most vulnerable nation-wide with some form of humanitarian assistance.

The Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan is currently just 15.5 per cent funded, with US\$270.2 million received so far this year. However, additional donors are coming forward in response to the escalating needs driven by the conflict. The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) has announced the provision of \$100 million worth of humanitarian aid to Sudan. King Salman Centre and the Crown Prince also called for a public donations campaign through the "Sahem" platform. The Government of Australia has announced an initial 6 million Australian dollars (AUD) (about US\$4 million) in emergency funding to assist the people of Sudan. About 1 million AUD will go directly to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the remainder to other international partners.