

↓↑ Sudan Crisis: Cross-Border Assessment

Area of Origin: Reports on the situation in settlements in South Darfur State: Round 2

23 June 2023
South Sudan

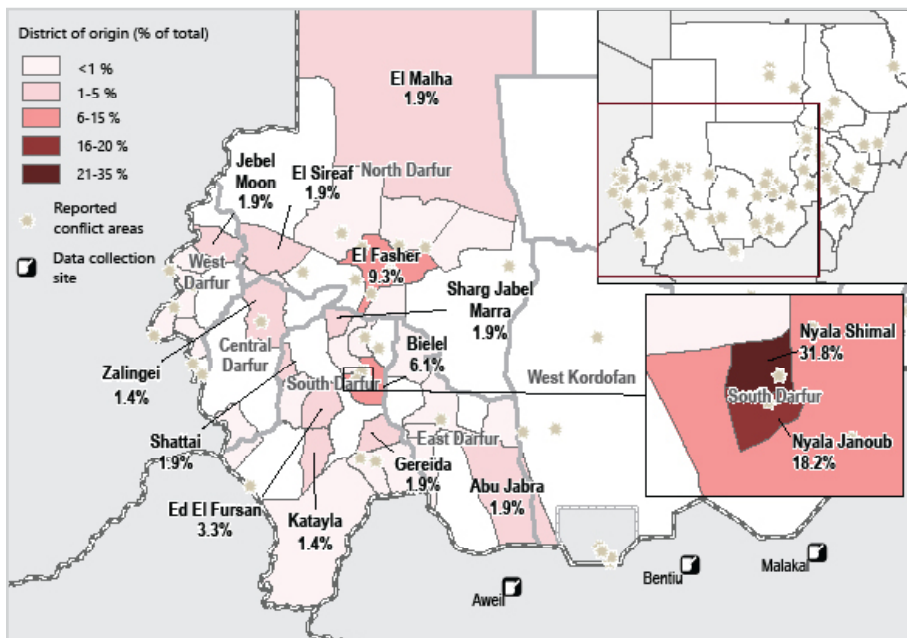
KEY MESSAGES

- While attacks on civilians are increasing in the Darfur region, key informant (KI) responses suggest that a large number of people are trapped in Sudan. These remaining populations are reportedly unable to leave even though they want to, due to insecurity, physical impairment, or lack of money.
- Results suggest that the remaining population in Darfur is facing food insecurity, and that this will worsen in the coming months. This is because agricultural production in the Darfur region, which is a major source of livelihoods and a key food source, has reportedly been severely disrupted.
- KI responses indicate that basic services, water, food and livelihoods continue to be negatively affected due to the destruction of public services and private property, and movement barriers within and between settlements

27/31 of households interviewed reported coming from districts in South Darfur State. Findings presented in this overview therefore refer to the situation in South Darfur.

26 May All KI respondents had been present in, or in contact with, their area of origin (AoO) after the 26th May. Findings presented in this overview therefore refer to information received from the Darfur region after 26th May.

Map 1: Reported districts of origin in Sudan
Reported districts of origin of households interviewed for the cross-border assessment
(conflict data source: [ACLED](#))



CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Conflict erupted in Sudan on the 15th of April 2023, leading to displacement of hundreds of thousands of Sudanese nationals into neighbouring countries. The conflict, subsequent displacement, and anticipated macroeconomic consequences are likely to exacerbate the already severe humanitarian situation in Sudan and its neighbouring countries.

Given the rapidly changing humanitarian context, REACH conducted a cross-border monitoring assessment to provide humanitarian actors with up-to-date information on the extent of humanitarian needs in shock-affected parts of Sudan and among recent arrivals in neighbouring countries. This situation overview presents indicative findings on the humanitarian situation in communities of origin in Darfur, as reported by individuals from those communities who crossed the border into South Sudan. Additional data and analysis from the cross-border and other assessments on the Sudan Crisis can be accessed via the [Sudan Crisis Thread](#).

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

REACH enumerators conducted structured household interviews with refugees and returnees entering at relevant border crossing points and in reception centers in South Sudan.

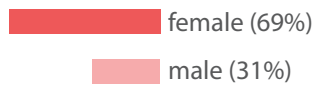
In addition to participating in the household survey on the conditions in area of displacement, household survey interviewees were asked to act as key informants (KIs) and report on the situation of the communities in their area of origin. Only those individuals who had been in contact with people remaining in their area of origin since the [previous round of data collection on South Darfur](#) (26 May 2023) were selected for this second component, leaving a final sample of 31 KIs. Findings are indicative and cannot be generalised with a known level of precision. Given the volatile nature of the erupting conflict, the situation in areas of origin might have changed since KIs' departure from their community. Where possible, findings should be triangulated with new information. For more information on the methodology, please refer to page 4.

DEMOGRAPHICS*

Household-level findings (Darfur)

Total number of interviews: **217**

% of respondents per gender



% of respondents per nationality

1. South Sudan (53%)

2. Sudan (47%)

* Findings relate to the **total sample of interviews** conducted for the cross-border assessment with **households who reported originating in Darfur**. Findings presented here focus on the demographics and displacement of interviewed households (HHs) who crossed the border into South Sudan. For more information, see the Methodology Overview on p4.

MOVEMENT*

Household-level findings (Darfur)

Top 3 most reported regions of origin

1. Nyala Shimal, South Darfur (32%)

2. Nyala Janoub, South Darfur (18%)

3. Al Fasher, North Darfur (14%)

Most reported push factors	% of HHs
Active conflict in settlement	88%
Loss of livelihoods	33%
Desire to reunify with family	7%
Concern about eventual arrival of conflict in settlement	6%

As of 13 June

1,670,991people **are estimated to be displaced** inside Sudan**528,147**people **are estimated to have displaced to** neighbouring countries, among whom an estimated **110,980** **crossed the border** into South Sudan.

*IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Round 8

REMAINING POPULATION*

Household-level findings

Displacement out of Darfur

Findings seem to corroborate IOM reports of [internal displacement in the Darfur region](#). Of all 217 households, 80 reported there were no members of their household living in their area of origin (AoO), suggesting high levels of displacement from many settlements in the region.

Of the remaining 137 of respondents, 31 perceived themselves knowledgeable on the situation in their neighbourhood since conflict broke out on the 15th April, and reported being in contact with (or present in) their AoO since [the first round of cross-border evaluation on Darfur](#).

These 31 household survey respondents were selected as KIs and were asked follow up questions about the security, basic services, WASH, food security and markets in their AoO.

This factsheet presents the responses of those 31 KIs. Household responses from all states of Sudan are presented in a dedicated factsheet [here](#).

Involuntary immobility

Area of origin - KI findings

Among those 31 KIs, 26 reported that there are people in their AoO who were planning to leave but have been unable to. Some respondents mentioned that groups with vulnerabilities were unable to leave,

such as those living with disability (5) and elderly women (8). A small number of KIs reported that children remained in their AoO, unable to leave.

In line with [reports of long, difficult and expensive displacement journeys for those who do leave](#), the most commonly reported barriers to leaving the AoO were safety and security (19 KIs), road closures (9 KIs) and residents being physically unable to travel (9 KIs).

Lack of money also appears to be a key barrier to movement; either to pay for passage at checkpoints (8 KIs) or to pay transportation costs (8 KIs).

Together, these findings suggest the presence of populations in vulnerable positions including those who are less mobile and/or too poor to flee from the violence and who thus remain trapped in conflict-affected areas in Darfur, [which reportedly face imminent attacks](#).

IMPACT ON ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS & SERVICES

Area of origin - KI findings

In line with other reports of remaining populations [lacking access to food, water and electricity](#), KI responses indicate that basic services, water, food and livelihoods have been negatively affected by the destruction of public services and private property, and movement barriers caused by the conflict since 15 April.

Basic services

The majority of KIs (21 out of 31) reported that at least one basic service was no longer available in their AoO as a result of the conflict.

Of those who reported that basic services are unavailable, the most commonly reported were educational facilities (11 KIs), hospitals and health facilities (8 KIs), and markets and shops (8 KIs), electricity networks (7 KIs) and water (5 KIs). This reflects reports that [many health, water and electricity services are not operational in West Darfur](#).

In line with [reports of attacks on health facilities and other public services](#), 12 KIs who reported that services in their AoO have experienced some kind of damage, 9 of whom reported that they have been completely destroyed. 9 KIs also reported that basic services in their AoO are closed due to insecurity, while 6 reported that they are occupied by armed groups.

Access to water

Only 10 out of 31 KIs listed a water supply network as a basic service which was available in their AoO before the conflict. 25 of 31 KIs reported that whatever water access there was in their AoO has worsened since the conflict. This suggests that an already-vulnerable water situation has worsened in Darfur since the beginning of the conflict.

According to KIs, in response to poor water access, residents in their AoOs are

relying on surface water for drinking (7) and other purposes (3). 10 KIs also reported that residents of the AoO are reducing water consumption, mostly for bathing (7).

Food security and livelihoods

28 of 31 KIs reported that the conflict has led to a loss of livelihoods in their AoO.

15 KIs of 28 report that livelihoods have been lost due to the loss or destruction of property, while 9 KIs report that the market is destroyed, inaccessible, or not functioning. 8 KIs report that it's too dangerous to move around the settlement because of the conflict.

According to an [Intergovernmental Authorities on Development \(IGAD\) regional report](#), 11.7 million people were facing high levels of acute food insecurity in 2022.

All 31 KIs reported that access to food in their AoO has worsened since 15 April. 17 KIs reported that hunger in their AoO is severe, while 9 reported that it is leading to death.

The most commonly reported reason for lack of food was that markets are destroyed or not functioning (14 KIs), followed by crop destruction (8 KIs), as well as the destruction/consumption of stocks (6 KIs) and lack of money (6 KIs). Most commonly cited coping strategy for lack of food are borrowing food from a friend or relative (13 KIs).

The [IGAD projects under-performing harvests in Sudan in 2023](#). KIs from Darfur echo this projection.

25 of 31 KIs reported that agriculture is one of their key income generation activities in the AoO, and were therefore asked to report on the agricultural situation in their AoO.

18 of 25 reported that their AoO would normally be in agricultural season. However, KI responses suggest that agriculture has been significantly disrupted by conflict: 9 KIs reported that the planted area will be smaller this

season, and 9 KIs reported that there will be no planted land at all in their AoO. Furthermore, 23 of 25 KIs reported lack of access to seeds, while 21 of 25 reported lack of access to tools.

Together, these results suggest that the food insecurity situation will worsen in the coming months, as agricultural production in the Darfur region, which is a major source of livelihoods and a key food source, will be severely disrupted.

Markets

30 out of 31 KIs* reported that prices for food in their AoO have increased, while 29 KIs reported that prices for NFIs have increased. This is coherent with [reports of massive price increases in North Darfur](#).

Basic products are also reportedly less available, or completely unavailable, in several AoOs (see table below).

Reported availability of basic goods in the AoO:

Product	#KIs who reported reduced availability only** in AoO	#KIs who reported zero availability in AoO
Sorghum	6	24
Onions	3	15
Tomato paste	2	13
Cow meat	3	6
Vegetable oil	3	5
Sugar	9	5
Body soap	5	1
Charcoal	2	6
Clean drinkingwater	4	6

SAFETY & SECURITY

Reports indicate severe and increasing violence in all of the Darfur States: including [attacks on civilians, looting, and sexual violence](#). Reports have also called attention to the conflict taking on [ethnic dimensions and that there is a risk of crimes against humanity being committed](#).

While El Geneina in West Darfur has been the focal point of violence until now, [reports warn this kind of violence may spread to other areas of Darfur](#).

Household-level findings

The impact of conflict on civilians who are trying to leave Darfur is highlighted in the household survey, where over half of household respondents encountered difficulties while travelling or crossing the border*. 69% of these reported looting of property by armed actors. 26% reported being subjected to violence during their journey*.

Area of origin - KI findings

9 KIs reported increased security risk for the population in their AoO since 15 April: this result may be low due to the sensitive nature of the topic. Those who do report on security highlight being threatened with violence (4) or being killed (7).

KIs reported that several vulnerable groups are unable to leave their AoO (see "Involuntary Mobility" page 2).

Together, these reports suggest that a significant number of people will be unable to leave and therefore extremely vulnerable to attacks on civilians and ethnic violence.

Gender based violence

Gender-based or sexual violence (GBV) is not reported by KIs: this may be due to the sensitive nature of the topic. However other reports show that [GBV is increasing](#). A recent [Gender Analysis by CARE International](#) provides information on the context of GBV in Sudan pre-conflict, as well as the gendered impact of the current humanitarian crisis.

*18 of 31 KIs reported that commerce is one of their key sources of income. All KI responses regarding markets are consistent with the responses of these 18 commerce-specific KIs.

** Some KIs selected "reduced availability" and "zero availability" for the same product. In these cases, their response has been counted as "zero availability"

* Findings relate to the [total sample of interviews](#) conducted for the cross-border assessment with [households who reported originating in Darfur](#). Findings presented here focus on the demographics and displacement of interviewed households (HHs) who crossed the border into South Sudan. For more information, see the Methodology Overview on p3.

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

Time of data collection: 6-8 June 2023

In the absence of a comprehensive needs assessment on the situation in Sudan and neighbouring countries, the assessment consisted of two components to cover, as best as possible, the situation in areas of origin in Sudan as well as the situation of recent arrivals in South Sudan.

The first component consisted of a structured household survey with returnees and refugees crossing the Sudan-South Sudan border. In total, 438 households were interviewed about their current situation and movement intentions for this first round of data collection. Household-level findings are indicated in this factsheet with an *. More detailed findings for this component are presented separately and can be accessed [here](#).

For the second component, household survey interviewees were asked to act as a key informant (KI) and report on behalf of their community in their settlement of origin about the situation. Respondents were selected for the KI component if they 1) reported that there were still people living in their settlement of origin and 2) confirmed that they felt knowledgeable on the situation in their settlement of origin since the 15 April. In total, enumerators interviewed 73 KIs among those households. To provide a comparison with the [first cross-border assessment on Darfur](#), this factsheet presents the responses of 31 KIs who had been in contact with their settlement of origin since the last data collection (23-26 May). All interviews

were conducted at border crossing points and in reception centers by trained enumerators.

Due to the purposive sampling, findings for both components are not generalisable with a known level of precision and should be considered indicative only. As more information becomes available, it is recommended to triangulate findings with updated information where possible.

For more information on the sampling tools and methods used, please refer to the Research Terms of Reference (ToR) and the Detailed Analysis Plan (DAP), which will be made available [here](#).

New data, analysis, and outputs from other assessments on the Sudan conflict will be made available on the [Sudan Crisis Thread](#) on the REACH website.

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).