

# Sudan Crisis: Assessment of hard-to-reach areas in Zalingi, Central Darfur






September, 2023

Sudan







## KEY MESSAGES

- According to Key Informants (KIs), in most of the assessed settlements in the locality of Zalingi<sup>1</sup> **safety and security** had either **remained the same or worsened** in the month prior to data collection. In addition, in almost all of assessed settlements KI reported that most people did not feel safe most of the time, and where not able to move freely and safely in and out of the settlement.
- In the majority of the assessed settlements KIs reported that **access to basic services, nutrition assistance and shelter had either remained the same or worsened** in the month prior to the data collection. Basic services not being accessible and barriers to accessing healthcare were reported by KIs in most settlements.
- Across almost all settlements, KIs reported that people in the hard-to-reach settlements (in the locality of Zalingi) and in their current location (Ad Du'ayn) had not received assistance in the month prior to the data collection. Although KIs reported that access to food had improved in half of assessed settlements, **food remained the most commonly reported priority need**, both in hard-to-reach settlements and KI's current location. In almost all settlements, the preferred modalities to receive assistance were in-kinds and multi-purpose cash.

General trends reported by KIs in hard-to-reach assessed settlements:

	<b>Access to basic services</b>	Remained the same or worsened (page 6)	→ ↓
	<b>Access to food</b>	Improved or remained the same (page 8)	→ ↑
	<b>Access to nutrition assistance</b>	Remained the same or worsened (page 7)	→ ↓
	<b>Perceived security &amp; safety</b>	Remained the same or worsened (page 5)	→ ↓
	<b>Access to shelter</b>	Remained the same or worsened (page 6)	→ ↓

Most commonly reported priority need by KIs :

Hard-to-reach settlements (Zalingi)			Current settlements (Ad Du'ayn)		
					
<b>Food</b>	<b>Healthcare</b>	<b>Livelihoods</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Shelter</b>	<b>Livelihoods</b>

## CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Armed clashes in multiple cities across Sudan broke out on April 15th between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), resulting in displacement across the country and a deterioration of the already severe humanitarian needs in the country.

Given the rapidly changing humanitarian context, and the access constraints in many areas of the country, REACH conducted an assessment of hard-to-reach areas in Sudan, to provide humanitarian actors with information on the extent of humanitarian needs in shock-affected and difficult to access parts of Sudan.

## ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

A total of **72 key informants (KIs)** from or with knowledge about the humanitarian conditions in 34 hard-to-reach settlements in Zalingi (Central Darfur) were interviewed in **Ad Du'ayn (East Darfur), from 10 - 19 September, 2023**. The data for this assessment was collected with support from Catholic Relief Services (CRS). During the interviews, KIs were asked about the **top priority needs in their current location** and the **humanitarian conditions and needs of people in the hard-to-reach settlements** they had knowledge about or had recently left behind in the locality of Zalingi, Central Darfur.

**The findings are indicative and cannot be generalised with a known level of precision.** Given the ongoing conflict, the situation in areas of knowledge might have changed since KIs' last contact with the area. Where possible, findings should be triangulated with new information. For more information on the methodology, please refer to [page 9](#).

The factsheets presenting the findings for East, West, South and Central Darfur states can be accessed via the [Sudan Crisis Thread](#) on the [REACH website](#).

<sup>1</sup> Localities correspond to administrative level 2 in Sudan.

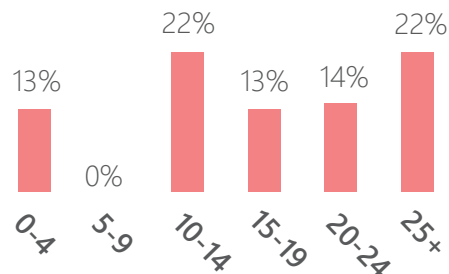
## DISPLACEMENT

This section of the factsheet includes the main findings about the KIs reported displacement journeys from their hard-to-reach settlements in Zalingi to their current location in Ad Du'ayn, East Darfur. Unless otherwise stated, the findings are presented as the **proportion of the KIs reporting the given response**.

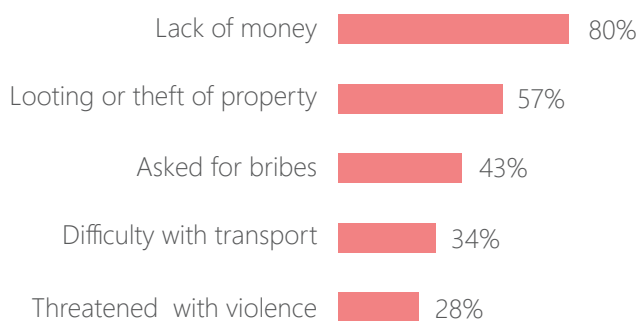
% of KI reporting facing difficulties during travel:



Reported number of people in displacement group<sup>3</sup>, by % of KIs:



Reported type of difficulties during travel, by % of KIs having reported difficulties (n=65)<sup>2</sup>:



Reported presence of vulnerable individuals in displacement groups, by % of KIs:



## UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN

**49%**

of the KIs reported that they **had been separated from at least one member of their group during displacement (n=35)**.

**of whom 54%**

reported children being separated from all adult family members (19/35).

<sup>2</sup> KIs could select up to 3 options.

<sup>3</sup> Displacement group refers to the group of people the KI travelled with for the majority of their travels from their settlement to their current location

<sup>4</sup> Includes mental or physical disabilities.

<sup>5</sup> In the questionnaire, this category was phrased as following: "Anyone who was so distressed or disturbed that they were unable to carry out daily activities were completely or almost completely inactive."

## PRIORITY NEEDS AND ASSISTANCE PREFERENCES IN KIs CURRENT LOCATION

This section of the factsheet includes the main findings about the priority needs and assistance preferences in the current location of the KIs (Ad Du'ayn, East Darfur). Unless otherwise stated, the findings are presented as the **proportion of the KIs reporting the given response**.

Most commonly reported priority needs, by % of KIs<sup>6</sup>:



Food

89%



Shelter

65%



Livelihoods

53%



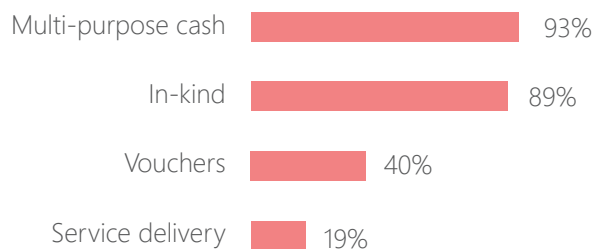
Healthcare

43%

90%

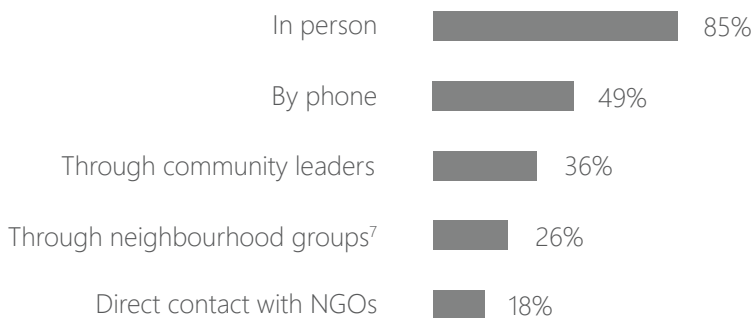
of KIs reported that people in Ad Du'ayn had **not received assistance** in the two weeks prior to data collection.

Reported preferred modalities to receive assistance, by % of KIs<sup>6</sup>:



## COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES IN KIs CURRENT LOCATION

Most commonly reported preferred channels to communicate feedback on the international aid response, by % of KIs<sup>6</sup>:



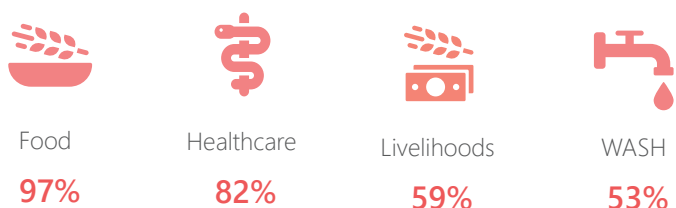
<sup>6</sup> KIs could select up to 3 options.

<sup>7</sup> Neighborhood groups included for example Resistance committees and Active emergency rooms.

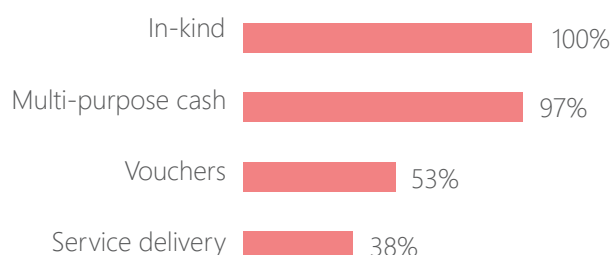
## PRIORITY NEEDS AND ASSISTANCE PREFERENCES IN HARD TO REACH SETTLEMENTS

This section and the rest of the factsheet includes findings about the reported needs of people in hard-to-reach settlements assessed in Zalingi, Central Darfur. Unless otherwise stated, findings are presented as the **proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported the given response**.

Most commonly reported priority needs, by % of assessed settlements<sup>8</sup>:



Reported preferred modalities to receive assistance, by % of assessed settlements<sup>8</sup>:



In **97%**

of the assessed settlements KIs reported that people had **not received assistance** in the month prior to data collection.

In **32%**

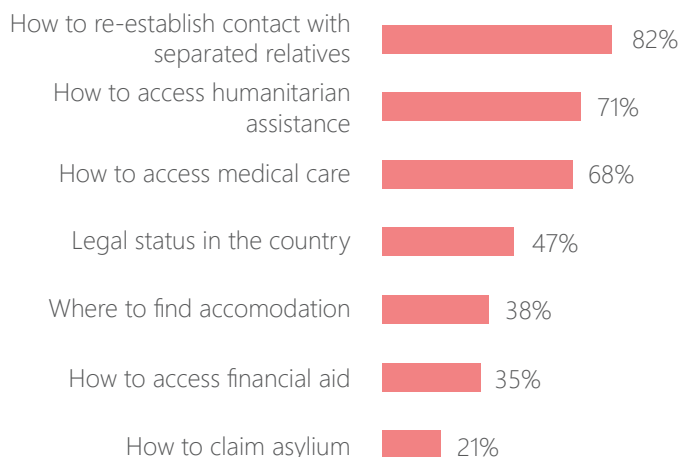
of the assessed settlements KIs reported that **some groups were less likely to received assistance**, even when in need (n=11).



The population groups less likely to received assistance most commonly reported in settlements where KIs reported that some groups were less likely to received aid (n=11) were **children under 5 years old** (9/11) and **pregnant or lactating women** (7/11)<sup>9</sup>.

## INFORMATION NEEDS & COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

Most commonly reported information needs at time of data collection, by % of assessed settlements<sup>8</sup>:



Most commonly reported preferred channels to receive information or communicate feedbacks, by % of assessed settlements:

	To receive information <sup>8</sup>	To share feedbacks on the international aid response <sup>8</sup>
By phone	74%	47%
Through community leaders	65%	47%
Through friends/family	35%	-
Through neighborhood groups <sup>10</sup>	32%	29%
In-person	32%	71%
Written information/ Feedback boxes	26%	18%
Direct contact with NGOs	18%	29%

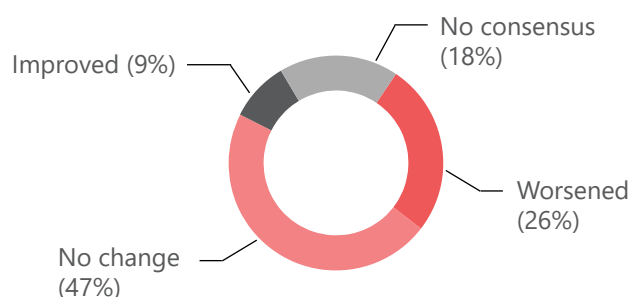
<sup>8</sup> KIs could select up to 3 options.

<sup>9</sup> KIs could select multiple options

<sup>10</sup> Neighborhood groups included for example Resistance committees and Active emergency rooms.

## PROTECTION: PERCEIVED SAFETY & SECURITY







Reported changes in perceived safety and security in the month prior to the data collection, by % of assessed settlements:



In **97%**

of settlements, KIs reported that most people in the hard-to-reach settlement were **not able to move freely and safe in and out of the settlement** in the month prior to data collection.

Most commonly reported population groups most likely to feel unsafe, by % of settlements where KIs reported that most people did not feel safe (n=32)<sup>11</sup>:

<b>66%</b> (21/32)	<b>28%</b> (9/32)	<b>22%</b> (7/32)	<b>13%</b> (4/32)	<b>13%</b> (4/32)	<b>13%</b> (4/32)
					
No specific group	Pregnant or lactating women	Children aged 0-4 years	Elderly females	Girls (aged 5-17)	Persons with disabilities

In **94%**  
of settlements KIs reported that most people in the hard-to-reach settlement **did not feel safe most of the time.**

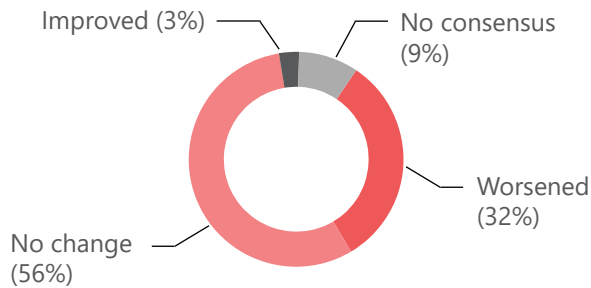
Most reported safety and security risks, by % of assessed settlements, disaggregated by population group<sup>11</sup>:

	Females (aged 18+ years)	Girls (aged 0-17 years)	Males (aged 18+ years)	Boys (aged 0-17 years)
Insecurity	85%	85%	88%	88%
Abduction / Forced Recruitment	15%	15%	62%	53%
Physical harassment / violence	53%	56%	<10%	24%
Sexual abuse, exploitation, harassment	79%	74%	21%	18%
Criminality	21%	26%	35%	35%
Discrimination	24%	24%	29%	29%
Domestic violence	18%	15%	26%	26%
Explosive hazards	41%	44%	65%	68%
Women and girls denied resources and opportunities or services	21%	18%	-	-
Arbitrary detention	<10%	<10%	41%	32%

<sup>11</sup> KIs could select multiple options.

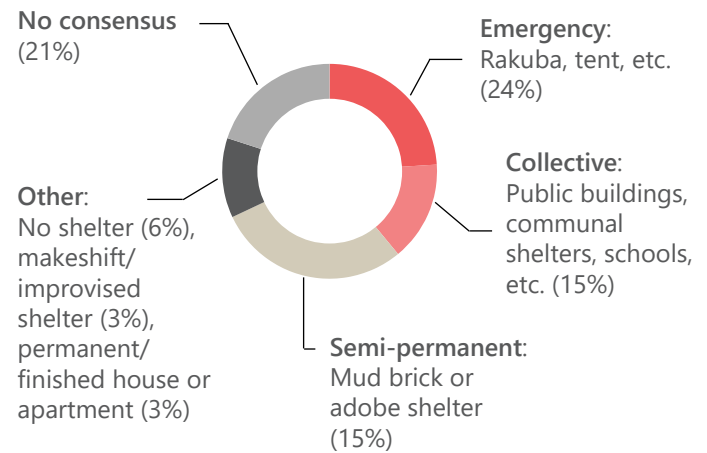
## SHELTER:

Reported change in access to shelter in the month prior to the data collection, by % of assessed settlements:



The main barriers to access reported in settlements where access to adequate shelter was reported to have worsened (n=11) were **complete destructions due to conflict** (9/11), the **occupation of shelters by armed groups** (8/11) and the **inaccessibility of shelters due to movement restrictions** (7/11)<sup>12</sup>.

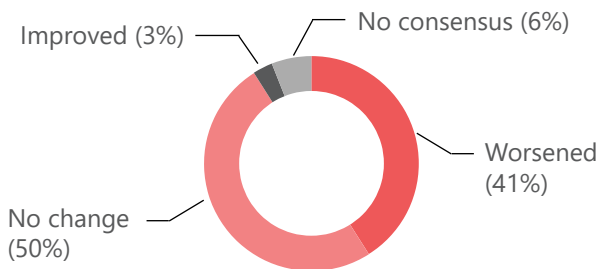
Reported main shelter type, by % of assessed settlements:



## BASIC SERVICES:

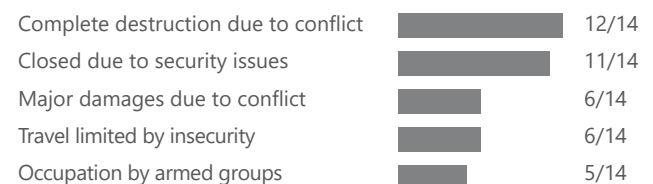
In **97%** of settlements KIs reported that **no basic service<sup>13</sup> were accessible** in the hard-to-reach settlement in the month prior to data collection

Reported change in access to basic services in the month prior to the data collection, by % of assessed settlements:



In assessed settlements where KIs reported that access to basic services had worsened (n=14), the services reported to have been most impacted were **hospital/health facilities** (12/14), **markets/shops** (11/14) and **educational facilities** (11/14)<sup>12</sup>.

Most commonly reported reasons for worsened access to basic services<sup>13</sup>, by number of assessed settlements where KIs reported worsened access (n=14)<sup>12</sup>:



## HEALTH SERVICES:

In **79%** of assessed settlements KIs reported **barriers to accessing healthcare** in the month prior to data collection

In the assessed settlements where KIs reported barriers to accessing healthcare (n=27), the groups considered to be the most likely to face barriers were **pregnant or lactating women** (mentioned in 12/27 settlements), **children under 5 years old** (8/27) and **persons with disabilities** (4/27).

Most commonly reported barriers to access healthcare, by number of assessed settlements where KIs reported barriers to accessing healthcare (n=27)<sup>12</sup>:

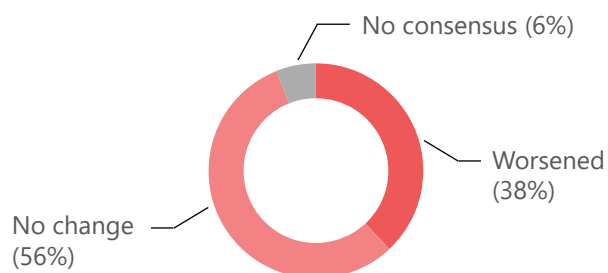


<sup>12</sup> KIs could select multiple options.

<sup>13</sup> Basic facilities included electricity, water, waste disposal, health, education.

## NUTRITION SERVICES

Reported change in access to feeding/nutrition assistance, by % of assessed settlements:



In **100%**

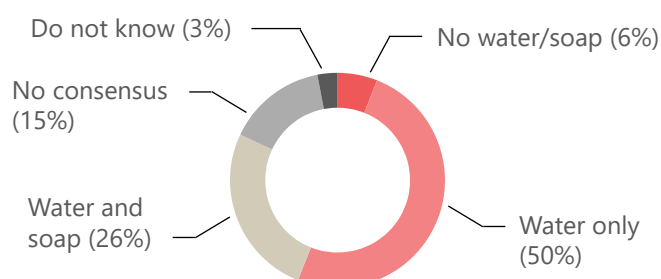
of the assessed settlements KIs reported that **no feeding programmes providing nutrition items<sup>14</sup> had been available** in their settlements in the month prior to data collection.

In **24%**

of the assessed settlements KIs reported that nutrition assistance was one of the three most urgent needs in their settlement.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Reported access to soap and water for handwashing purposes, by % of assessed settlements:



In **15%**

of the assessed settlements KIs reported that the main drinking water source were unprotected<sup>15</sup>.

In **35%**

of the assessed settlements KIs reported that a part of the population was not using any sanitation facilities, and was using open defecation instead.

Most commonly reported water sources, by % of assessed settlements:

	Main water source reportedly used by MOST of the population	Water source reportedly used by ANY of the population <sup>16</sup>
Rain water	15%	65%
Protected well	21%	53%
Cart with small tank	15%	41%
Unprotected well	<10%	38%
Borehole	12%	32%
Tanker-truck	0%	24%
Surface water	<10%	<10%
Public tap/standpipe	<10%	<10%
Protected spring	0%	<10%
No consensus	21%	-

Most commonly reported sanitation facilities, by % of assessed settlements:

	Main sanitation facility reportedly used by MOST of the population	Sanitation facility reportedly used by ANY of the population <sup>16</sup>
Pit latrine without slab (Open hole)	53%	91%
Pit latrine with concrete/plastic/cemented blocks slab	32%	59%
No facility, Bush, Field open defecation	0%	35%
Flush to septic tank	0%	12%
Flush to piped sewer system	0%	<10%
No consensus	15%	-

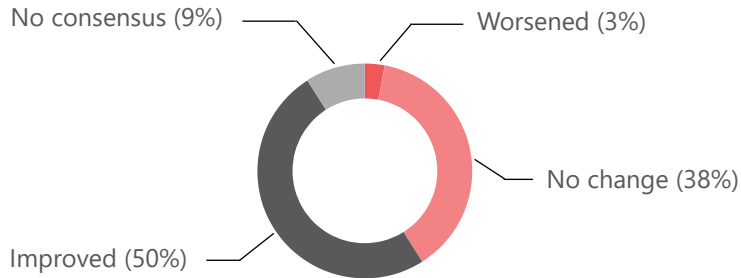
<sup>14</sup> Plumpy Sup, CSB++ or similar items

<sup>15</sup> Unprotected water sources included unprotected wells and springs and surface water

<sup>16</sup> KIs could select multiple options

## FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Reported change in access to food during the month prior to the data collection, by % of assessed settlements:



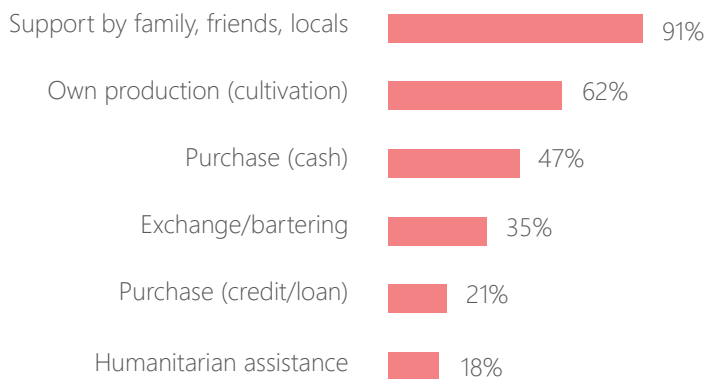
In **0%**

of the assessed settlements KIs reported that everyone in their settlement had access to enough food.

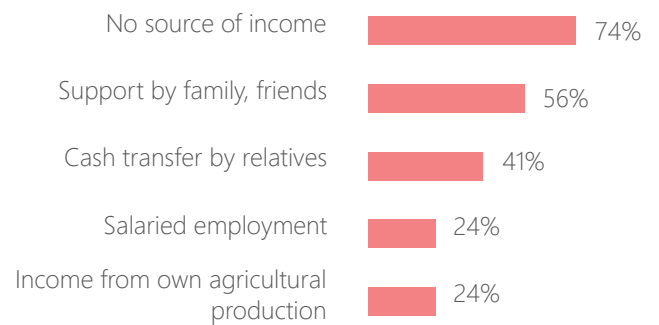
In **97%**

of the assessed settlements KIs reported that food was one of the three most urgent needs in their settlement.

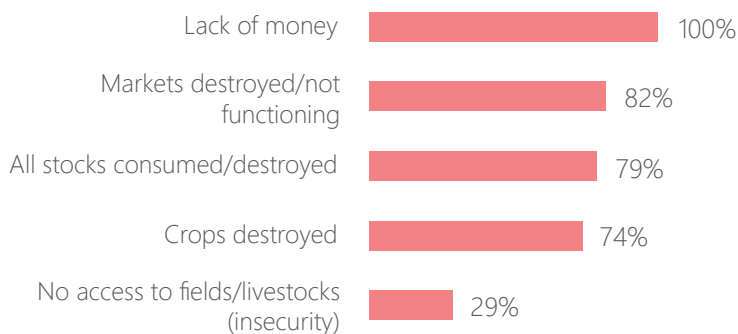
Most commonly reported sources of food, by % of assessed settlements<sup>17</sup>:



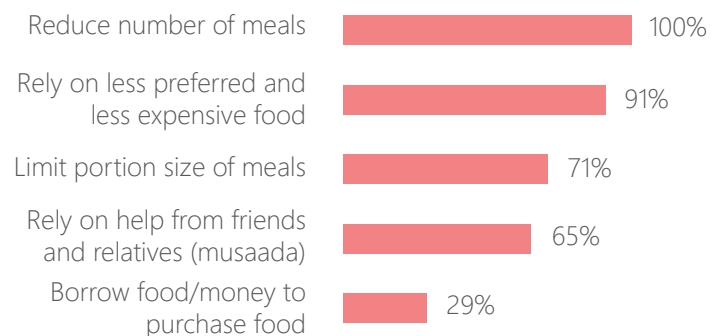
Most commonly reported sources of income, by % of assessed settlements<sup>17</sup>:



Most commonly reported reasons for lack of access to food, by % of assessed settlements<sup>18</sup>:



Most commonly reported strategies to cope with lack of food or money to buy it, by % of assessed settlements<sup>18</sup>:



<sup>17</sup> KIs could select up to 3 options.

<sup>18</sup> KIs could select multiple options.



## METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

In the absence of a comprehensive assessment of the humanitarian situation in Sudan, and considering the continuing access constraints in several parts of the country, REACH conducted an assessment to collect indicative data on the humanitarian situation in conflict-affected and difficult-to-access localities in the Darfur Region.

This assessment primarily used the Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology, used by REACH in several countries. In the AoK methodology, KIs report on a settlement which they have knowledge about or recently left (their "area of knowledge" or AoK). For this assessment, KIs were required to fulfill the following criteria:

- KIs confirmed that there are people remaining in their AoK.
- KIs confirmed that they have been present in, or in contact with someone from their AoK in the month prior to data collection.
- KIs confirm that they have enough knowledge to report on the situation and needs in their AoK.

**A total of 72 key informants (KIs)** were interviewed in Ad Du'ayn (East Darfur, Sudan) from **10 - 19 September 2023**.

The findings presented in this factsheet includes the results from the 72 interviews conducted in Ad Du'ayn (East Darfur) with KIs from Zalingi, Central Darfur. During the interviews KIs were asked about the top priority needs in their current location (Ad Du'ayn), and needs in the hard-to-reach settlements they had recently left or had knowledge about in Zalingi, Central Darfur (their AoK). All interviews were conducted by trained enumerators.

Findings about KIs' current needs are presented as the proportion of KIs reporting the given response, while findings about the needs in their AoK in Zalingi (Central Darfur) are presented as the proportion of settlements assessed where KIs reported the given response. The reason for this difference is because the responses about the needs in KIs' AoK has been aggregated at settlement level. As part of this aggregation a settlement was assigned one value for each question. If there was only one KI for a settlement, their answers automatically became the value for the settlement. If there were more than one KI, the value of the settlement was based on the majority of the responses. If there was no clear majority, e.g. 2 KIs report "yes" and 2 KIs report "no", the settlement response was coded as No Consensus (NC). For multiple choice questions, any option reported by a KI were included in the settlement-level data.

Multiple-choice responses are presented graphically or in tables. In most cases, only responses higher than 20% are included in graphs and tables. In some cases, all response options may be included if these options are seen to be particularly relevant to the humanitarian response.

Due to the purposive sampling, **findings 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 Data Analysis Plan (DAP), which are available [here](#).

## 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).